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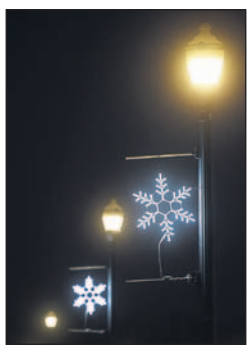

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BENTON HARBOR SCHOOLS

Auditor notes progress with district finances

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Benton Harbor school district's finances are the best they have been in years, school board trustees learned during the 2019-20 audit report Tuesday.

Auditors from Hungerford Nichols CPAs and Advisors told trustees that even though the district still has a short-term deficit, it made significant progress reducing it by the fiscal year's end on June 30.

At the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year, the district's accumulated deficit was $3.7 million. By June 30, that deficit stood at $1.2 million – a decrease of more than $2.5 million.

Auditors pointed out that the district first went into deficit in 2006, with the deficit's apex being $16.4 million on June 30, 2011.

In past years, the district's short-term deficit was reduced in part by getting emergency loans from the state, which increased the district's long-term debt.

When contacted by phone after the meeting, the district's chief financial officer, Scott Johnson, said that didn't happen during the 2019-20 fiscal year.

"We took out no new long-term debt," he said. "We did restructure the debt, but we took out no new emergency loans."

He said that the improvement in the district's short-term deficit was mostly due to spending cuts.

The audit shows that for the 2019-20 fiscal year, revenues were $25.1 million, while expenditures were just under $22.4 million, explaining how the district whittled down its accumulated deficit.

According to the audit, the district has $12.83 million in long-term debt, which includes $10.8 million in emergency loans, which trustees are asking the state to forgive.

Johnson said he has received no update from the state regarding whether debt from the emergency loans will be forgiven.

He said if the long-term debt from the loans is forgiven, that would free up a lot of money in the general fund. He said that during the current fiscal year, the district's payment on that debt is $777,000, all of which comes out of the general fund.

"Other districts don't have that kind of burden on their general fund," he said. "That's money we could be using for better pay for teachers or for teaching supplies and better equipment."

He said many other districts have even more long-term debt than the Benton Harbor district has, but it's being paid off with voter-approved millages instead of the general fund.

A note of warning in the audit points out a drop in the number of students attending the school district this fall, which could affect its financial health since it receives state aid based on the number of students in attendance. It states that the student count for the current school year was projected to drop by 50 students, from 1,745 to 1,695. Instead, the unaudited fall count was listed at 1,603 students.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Sophia Cochran, a senior at South Haven High School, loads holiday gift bags containing wrapping paper and decorations into a car Wednesday during a food pantry distribution held at First Congregational Church in South Haven. Cochran, a member of a South Haven Boy Scout troop, is preparing to finish her Eagle Scout project this week and is among the female Eagle Scouts in the nation.

Breaking down barriers

SH teen to be among the first female Eagle Scouts in the country

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — Trustworthy. Courteous. Helpful. Brave. Reverent.

Those are just some of the attributes 17-year-old Sophia Cochran of South Haven strives to live by each day.

Those qualities are what attracted Cochran to be among the first female teens to join Scouts BSA, the Boy Scouts of America's new name for the leadership program it offers for older male and female teens.

COCHRAN

Now Cochran is poised to achieve another first – the rank of Eagle Scout, scouting's highest honor.

"She will be in the first group of female Scouts in the country to earn this rank, and may be the first one in Van Buren County," said Rev. Jeffrey Dick, pastor of First Congregational Church, sponsor of Troop 188.

"Boy Scouts of America allowed girls to join Scouts in February of 2019," Dick explained. "Our church applied to charter a new Troop – Troop 188 G. Girls and boys are in separate troops. They can do things together, but a separate organization for now. ... Sophia is a charter member (of Troop 188G)."

Cochran, who is a senior at South Haven High School, joined the troop nearly two years ago when the Boy Scouts of America decided to include girls into scouting programs geared for youth 11-17 years old.

"I've been a Girl Scout since I was 7," she said. But when the Boy Scouts of America opened scouting to girls in 2018, Cochran decided to be a member of both groups.

"My family belongs to First Congregational Church," she said. "I noticed this troop (Troop 188) is really involved. They do a lot for this community. I wanted to be a part of it."

She also wanted to be among the first group of female Scouts in America

Cochran, 17, organizes holiday gift bags containing wrapping paper and decorations Wednesday during a food pantry distribution at First Congregational Church in South Haven.

See SCOUTS, page A6

State to borrow $600M for Flint water settlement

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Michigan lawmakers on Wednesday began swiftly passing a plan to borrow $600 million to fund the state's proposed settlement with the residents of Flint, who sued after their municipal water supply was contaminated with elevated levels of lead for 18 months.

Under the bipartisan legislation that received unanimous Senate approval, the loan from a state economic development fund would cost more than $1 billion to repay over 30 years – $35 million annually. It is believed to be the state government's largest-ever legal settlement, pending approval from a federal judge.

Other defendants contributing to the $641 million deal include the city of Flint and McLaren Flint Hospital, which each will pay $20 million, and Rowe Professional Services Co., an environmental consulting company that will pay $1.25 million. The House is expected to pass the bills next week and send them to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for her signature.

"We all determined together that that was the quickest way to get the money to be available for the families and to fulfill the settlement requirements," said Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, a Flint Democrat who is sponsoring one bill. The mechanism, he said, will avoid a large drawdown from Michigan's savings account, known as the "rainy day" fund.

Flint switched its drinking water source in 2014

See FLINT, page A6

AP-NORC poll: Only half in U.S. want shots as vaccine nears

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As states frantically prepare to begin months of vaccinations that could end the pandemic, a new poll finds only about half of Americans are ready to roll up their sleeves when their turn comes.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows about a quarter of U.S. adults aren't sure if they want to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. Roughly another quarter say they won't.

Many on the fence have safety concerns and want to watch how the initial rollout fares – skepticism that could hinder the campaign against the scourge that has killed nearly 290,000 Americans. Experts estimate at least 70 percent of the U.S. population needs to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, or the point at which enough people are protected that the virus can be held in check.

"Trepidation is a good word. I have a little bit of trepidation towards it," said Kevin Buck, a 53-year-old former Marine from Eureka, California.

Buck said he and his family will probably get vaccinated eventually, if initial shots go well.

"It seems like a little rushed, but I know there was absolutely a reason to rush it," he said of the vaccine, which was developed with remarkable speed, less than a year after the virus was identified. "I think a lot of people are not sure what to believe, and I'm

See VACCINE, page A6

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Tomorrow's Weather
High 46 | Low 39

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U.S. govt., states sue Facebook for 'predatory' conduct

By MARCY GORDON and MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government and 48 states and districts sued Facebook Wednesday, accusing it of abusing its market power in social networking to crush smaller competitors and seeking remedies that could include a forced spinoff of the social network's Instagram and WhatsApp messaging services.

The landmark antitrust lawsuits, announced by the Federal Trade Commission and New York Attorney General Letitia James, mark the second major government offensive this year against seemingly untouchable tech behemoths. The Justice Department sued Google in October for abusing its dominance in online search and advertising – the government's most significant attempt to buttress competition since its historic case against Microsoft two decades ago. Amazon and Apple also have been under investigation in Congress and by federal authorities for alleged anticompetitive conduct.

James noted at a press conference that "it's really critically important that we block this predatory acquisition of companies and that we restore confidence to the market."

The FTC said Facebook has engaged in a "a systematic strategy" to eliminate its competition, including by purchasing smaller up-and-coming rivals like Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. James echoed that in her press conference, saying Facebook "used its monopoly power to crush smaller rivals and snuff out competition, all at the expense of everyday users."

The FTC fined Facebook $5 billion in 2019 for privacy violations and instituted new oversight and restrictions on its business. The fine was the largest the agency has ever levied on a tech company, although it had no visible impact on Facebook's business.

Facebook called the government actions "revisionist history" that punishes successful businesses and noted that the FTC cleared the Instagram and WhatsApp acquisitions years ago. "The government now wants a do-over, sending a chilling warning to American business that no sale is ever final," Facebook general counsel Jennifer Newstead said in a statement that echoed the company's response to a recent congressional antitrust probe.

Facebook is the world's biggest social network with 2.7 billion users and a company with a market value of nearly $800 billion whose CEO Mark Zuckerberg is the world's fifth-richest individual and the most public face of Big Tech swagger.

LOTTERIES

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Classic Lotto 47
01-08-27-37-42-47
Poker Lotto
AD-2C-3C-4D-4H
Midday Daily 3
3-1-0
Midday Daily 4
9-4-0-3
Daily 3
4-1-5
Daily 4
8-0-6-1
Fantasy 5
04-07-11-18-20
Keno
02-03-05-09-11-20-26-28-42-44-45-46-55-56-59-66-68-69-72-76-77-78
Mega Millions jackpot
$276 million
Powerball jackpot
$262 million

Tuesday drawings

Michigan
Mega Millions
15-19-33-39-68, Mega Ball: 25, Megaplier: 3
Indiana
Cash 5
19-21-24-28-30
Cash4Life
19-21-24-28-30, Cash Ball: 3
Quick Draw Midday
03-08-09-12-20-21-24-31-33-34-35-39-42-49-56-58-59-72-76-80, BE: 33
Daily Three-Midday
7-0-1, SB: 6
Daily Three-Evening
6-3-6, SB: 4
Daily Four-Midday
4-6-8-1, SB: 6
Daily Four-Evening
9-2-9-0, SB: 4
Quick Draw Evening
04-06-08-10-12-13-15-18-30-41-42-44-45-53-61-66-68-73-76-79, BE: 41
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
01-04-12-30-36
Pick Three-Midday
7-7-0, Fireball: 0
Pick Three-Evening
8-6-4, Fireball: 9
Pick Four-Midday
7-1-2-0, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Evening
0-6-0-1, Fireball: 1
Lucky Day Lotto
24-31-32-39-41

– The Associated Press

Tensions rise over masks as virus grips smaller U.S. cities

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and RYAN FOLEY
Associated Press

MISSION, Kan. — Arguments over mask requirements and other restrictions have turned ugly in recent days as the deadly coronavirus surge across the U.S. engulfs small and medium-size cities that once seemed safely removed from the outbreak.

In Boise, Idaho, public health officials about to vote on a four-county mask mandate abruptly ended a meeting Tuesday evening because of fears for their safety amid anti-mask protests outside the building and at some of their homes.

One health board member tearfully announced she had to rush home to be with her child because of the protesters, who were seen on video banging on buckets, blaring air horns and sirens, and blasting a sound clip of gunfire from the violence-drenched movie "Scarface" outside her front door.

"I am sad. I am tired. I fear that, in my choosing to hold public office, my family has too often paid the price," said the board member, Ada County Commissioner Diana Lachiondo. "I increasingly don't recognize this place. There is an ugliness and cruelty in our national rhetoric that is reaching a fevered pitch here at home, and that should worry us all."

Boise police said three arrest warrants were issued in connection with the demonstrations at board members' homes.

In South Dakota, the mayor of Rapid City said City Council members were harassed and threatened over a proposed citywide mask mandate that failed this week even as intensive care units across the state filled with COVID-19 patients.

The tensions are flaring amid an epic surge in U.S. deaths, hospitalizations and infections over the past several weeks.

Deaths are running at more than 2,200 a day on average, all but matching the level seen during the last spring's peak in and around New York City. New cases per day have rocketed to more than 200,000 on average, and the number of patients in the hospital with COVID-19 stood at almost 105,000 on Tuesday, another all-time high.

Protesters in Montana's Gallatin County have gathered for two consecutive weeks outside the Bozeman home of county health officer Matt Kelley to decry health regulations, including a statewide mask mandate. They have carried signs that read, "We refuse to be your experiment" and "Oxygen is essential."

Last week, around 80 people lined Bozeman's Main Street to support Kelley and other health officials.

In Montana's Flathead County, where officials recorded 17 coronavirus-related deaths over 18 days and resistance to masks runs strong, the interim public health officer is resigning when her contract is up at year's end, citing a lack of support from local authorities for measures to control the scourge.

In Helena, Republicans who control both chambers of the Montana Legislature denied a request by Democratic lawmakers to require masks be worn inside the Capitol during the legislative session next month.

In Missouri, Greene County officials recorded 51 COVID-19 deaths in the first eight days of December as hospitals overflow and hundreds of health care workers are quarantined. The area's two major hospitals asked the city of Springfield, the county seat, to renew the city's mask mandate before it expires in January. The county itself does not have a mask mandate, nor does the state.

IN BRIEF

Lawmakers act to avert shutdown, buying time for COVID talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Still spinning their wheels on COVID-19 relief, lawmakers grabbed a one-week government funding extension on Wednesday that buys time for more talks – though there is considerable disagreement over who is supposed to be taking the lead from there.

Amid the uncertainty, the House easily passed a one-week government-wide funding bill that sets a new Dec. 18 deadline for Congress to wrap up both the COVID-19 relief measure and a $1.4 trillion catch-all spending bill that is also overdue. The 343-67 vote sent the one-week bill to the Senate, where it's expected to easily pass before a deadline of midnight Friday to avert a partial government shutdown.

The measure would give lawmakers more time to sort through the hot mess they have created for themselves after months of futile negotiations and posturing and recent rounds of flip-flopping.

Top court spikes election lawsuit by Trump allies

DETROIT (AP) — The Michigan Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected an unprecedented request to take control of ballots and ballot boxes from the Nov. 3 election and appoint someone to investigate claims of vote-counting fraud in Detroit.

The court said it is "not persuaded that it can or should grant the requested relief." The order was 4-3, with a Republican-nominated justice, Elizabeth Clement, joining three Democrats in throwing out the lawsuit.

The case was filed days after the Board of State Canvassers certified Joe Biden's 154,000-vote Michigan victory over President Donald Trump. It was another lawsuit aimed at changing the outcome of the election.

There is no evidence of widespread election fraud anywhere in the U.S., experts say.

"I consider it imprudent to hear this matter, a conclusion only amplified by my view that it is irresponsible to continue holding out the possibility of a judicial solution to a political dispute that needs to be resolved with finality," Clement said.

Three dissenting conservative justices said they were in favor of at least hearing arguments.

Wisconsin-based F-16 crashes in Michigan during training

STEUBEN (AP) — A Wisconsin-based fighter jet crashed in a national forest in Michigan's Upper Peninsula while on a training mission and searchers were looking Wednesday for the pilot, who was the only person aboard, authorities said.

The F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing at Truax Field Air National Guard Base in Madison crashed about 8 p.m. Tuesday, the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs said in a statement.

The cause of the crash, as well as the status of the pilot, weren't immediately known, the statement said. The plane went down in Hiawatha National Forest, about 250 miles northeast of the base. Capt. Leslie Westmont, a spokeswoman for the 115th, said she had no new information late Wednesday afternoon.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

$1.34M project OK'd for Lakeland Niles Hospital

By HP STAFF

NILES — Construction has begun on a $1.34 million investment to renovate the bariatric and orthopedic units at Lakeland Niles Hospital.

The hospital system announced Wednesday that the project was recently approved by the Spectrum Health Lakeland Board of Directors.

The renovation project will feature seven private rooms with large bathrooms, showers, and bariatric toilets, an updated nurses' station, and upgraded mechanical systems, according to a news release.

Dr. Dennis Disch, chief medical officer/chief operating officer a Lakeland Niles Hospital, said in the release that patients who undergo orthopedic or bariatric surgery often experience significant improvements in their quality of life.

"We continue to see an increased need for both services in Niles and the surrounding communities," he said. "This renovation project will allow us to offer high-tech modernizations and enhance the overall patient experience for patients needing to stay overnight following a surgical procedure."

Orthopedic surgeries, such as joint replacement, ligament repair, and bone fractures, returned to that hospital in 2018. Since then, surgeons have completed over 163 procedures.

Lakeland Orthopedics, along Longmeadow Village Drive in Niles, has began offering expanded hours with a care team available to see patients five days a week.

Lakeland Niles Hospital remains the primary facility for all bariatric (weight loss) surgeries performed at Lakeland. Since 2018, surgeons at the Lakeland Weight Loss Center have performed more robotic-assisted weight loss procedures than any other health system in West Michigan and Northern Indiana.

Community members have raised over $270,000 in support of the project so far, according to the news release.

For more information about the renovation project, or to donate, visit spectrumhealthlakelandfoundation.org, or call 927-5145.

Photo provided

Construction has started at Lakeland Niles Hospital on a $1.34 million expansion to the bariatric and orthopedic units.

BENTON HARBOR

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Traffic flows past holiday lights along Main Street in downtown Benton Harbor Wednesday night.

Annual holiday light display is a go

Funding is down but DDA is making it work

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Benton Harbor Downtown Development Authority decided that the annual holiday light display should still be held.

DDA President Rich Hensel said it wasn't always a sure thing since they couldn't hold the normal tree lighting celebration, which includes celebrity readers at the Benton Harbor Library.

"There was discussion of not doing it at all," he said. "But when I talked to different business people, they felt that whatever we could afford to do, we should do."

With so many events being canceled to help slow the spread of the virus, he said at least putting up the lights was important.

"We wanted to support the businesses and do what we could do to help people feel as much as possible some normalcy and the spirit of the season," Hensel said.

So far, he said the lights have been hung along Main Street and in the Arts District by students from YouthBuild, a program of Michigan Works, one of the Kinexus Group subsidiaries. He said DDA volunteers are still working on putting the lights up in Dwight P. Mitchell City Center Park.

Hensel said this is the second year that students from YouthBuild have hung the lights along the streets, which has saved the DDA a lot of money. Hensel said money is donated to YouthBuild in exchange for them putting the lights up, taking them down and storing them.

"They've done a good job," he said. "They took the lights down (last year), organized and kept them, so they were ready to go up this year. They took good care of them for us. They've been very organized and methodical about how they managed the project both years."

Usually, more than 40 businesses and organizations donate money to support the holiday celebration. This year, he said fewer than 10 entities donated money, but they donated more than usual, realizing that many businesses are hurting due to decreased business because of the pandemic.

Hensel said the DDA is still accepting money for the holiday lights and other projects. Donations can be sent to Benton Harbor Downtown Development Authority, 200 E. Wall St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

The first holiday lights celebration was put on by the former Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Conservancy in 2014. The DDA took over the project a few years ago.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Holiday snowflakes add a festive spirit to the Arts District in downtown Benton Harbor on Wednesday night.

YouthBuild students in Benton Harbor have decorated bushes in the city's Arts District with holiday lights.

Drive sober campaign kicks off on Friday

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The Berrien County Sheriff's Office is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning this holiday season to remind drivers about the dangers of drinking and driving.

"We want our community to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season," said Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey in a news release. "With more drivers on the roads during this busy time of year, it's more important than ever for us to stress the importance of safe driving habits."

Bailey said that includes, before heading out to festivities, "Make sure you plan a sober ride home, because driving drunk should never be an option."

The theme of the drive sober campaign is "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving."

"Help us spread the message. Even one drink is one drink too many if you're the driver," he said.

The campaign kicks off Friday and runs through Jan. 1, 2021. The Sheriff's Office, along with police agencies nationwide, will increase patrols and take a zero-tolerance approach to drunk or drugged driving. The goal is to reduce crashes, fatalities and injuries.

The NHTSA reports that 10,000 people were killed each year from 2014 to 2018 and in 2018, one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 50 minutes across the U.S.

"Drunk driving is not only illegal, it is a matter of life and death," the sheriff said. "Drinking and driving could change your life, not to mention the lives of your passengers, pedestrians, or other drivers and their pedestrians."

According to the NHTSA, 839 people died in traffic crashes involving a drunk driver in December 2018. During the Christmas and New Year's holiday period in 2018, there were more drunk driving-related fatalities (285) than during any other holiday period that year, the NHTSA says.

In the U.S., it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher, except in Utah, where the limit is .05.

Anyone who sees a suspected drunk driver on the road should call their local police agency or 911, Bailey said.

For more information about the Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving campaign, visit https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

SJPS Foundation accepting nominations for alumni award

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — The St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation is looking for nominations for its 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 2012 by the SJPS Foundation to honor alumni who have excelled in their profession or made contributions to the St. Joseph community.

The deadline for nominations is Dec. 15.

Nominees have to be a graduate of St. Joseph Public Schools for 10 or more years, demonstrate a high level of achievement in their category, and have made significant contributions, or exhibited inspirational leadership, character and service.

Robert Ehrenberg, chairman of the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award Committee, said the awards will be presented on graduation Sunday in June.

Founded in 2012, the committee reviews nominations and selects honorees on an annual basis.

"With only 25 award recipients to date, our Distinguished Alumni honorees are members of a group of exceptional alumni, who have excelled in their career paths and contributed to the betterment of their communities and, in many cases, our nation," Ehrenberg said in a news release.

Information about the Distinguished Alumni Award, past honorees and a nomination form for the 2021 awards can be found at www.sjpsfoundation.org, or by contacting Director Sue Riemland at sjpsfoundation@stjoebears.com.

The SJPS Foundation serves as the academic "booster club" for the school district.

Since its inception in 1996, the foundation has generated and returned more than $3 million dollars to the district to support academic programming at all grade levels.

IN BRIEF

COVID recoveries top new cases Wednesday

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Berrien County recorded more COVID-19 recoveries than new cases on Wednesday – the second time this week.

Berrien County added 123 recoveries Wednesday and recorded 113 new cases. On Sunday, the county had added 125 recoveries and 108 new cases.

Wednesday's tallies brought the number of active cases in the county down slightly to about 3,939. That's still up from 3,703 active cases last Wednesday, but trending in a better direction.

Spectrum Health Lakeland is still near capacity with 60 COVID-19 patients admitted on Wednesday morning. The hospital had 67 patients admitted last Wednesday.

Van Buren County recorded another COVID-19 death Wednesday, bringing the county's death toll to 54. In addition the county recorded 52 new COVID-19 cases.

Cass County is still at 31 deaths and recorded 42 new cases on Wednesday.

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Trumpism won't be enduring ideology

Jonah Goldberg

In the aftermath of President Donald Trump's 2016 victory, many of his supporters wanted to construct an ideological worldview that would, they hoped, not only supplant traditional conservatism but redefine American politics.

As an intellectual project, it was pretty much a bust. For instance, Julius Krein started a journal, American Affairs, with the goal of providing an intellectual framework for Trumpism. As I noted at the launch, coming up with a coherent and consistent ideological program for a president who, as a point of pride, eschews ideological coherence and consistency is an impossible balancing act. Either you defend the ideas or you defend the man. You can't really do both, because Trumpism was never an ideological phenomenon but a psychological one. No wonder that six months later, Krein, to his credit, withdrew his support of Trump and said he regretted voting for him.

Other outlets tried the same thing and ended up simply becoming cheerleaders and "Trumpsplainers" that start with the conclusion Trump is right and then work backward to prove it.

Now, in the wake of Trump's defeat, the project to create Trumpism-without-Trump has been reborn as electoral analysis. Trump supporters claim that he bequeathed to the right and the country the makings of a new, multiethnic workers party.

It's a convenient conclusion for those who've argued that "Republican elites" were too "stubbornly moored to laissez-faire fundamentalism and limited government as an end in itself," in the words of Newsweek's Josh Hammer, a leading proponent of this theory. Hammer contends "it is the Republican Party that disproportionately represents a multiethnic, non-college-educated working class."

There's obviously some truth to this. The erosion of the old Franklin D. Roosevelt coalition, with the white working class migrating toward Republicans and college-educated suburbanites inching toward Democrats, has been a trend for decades. Trump accelerated these trends. What was new – and surprising – was how Democrats lost ground with people of color, particularly Latino people.

But this theory, which has already received endorsements from presidential wannabes such as Sens. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Josh Hawley, R-Mo., seems like another case of starting with the conclusion and reasoning backward.

First, contrary to the hype, Trump's performance with Black voters and even Latino voters wasn't so earth-shattering. Exit polls aren't entirely reliable, but since they're what many proponents of the new workers party theory are basing their analysis on, they're worth looking at.

Trump received 12 percent of the Black vote, 32 percent of the Latino vote and 34 percent of the Asian American vote. In 2004, George W. Bush received 11 percent of the Black vote and 44 percent of both the Latino and Asian American votes. An increase of 1 percent among Black voters and a double-digit decrease among Latino and Asian voters isn't exactly a seismic event. More important, unlike Trump, Bush not only won reelection but also the popular vote.

As for this new working-class party, whatever that means, it's worth noting that the average showing among union households – admittedly an imprecise measure of worker support – for GOP presidential candidates since 2000 is about 41 percent. Trump got 40 percent in 2020, down 7 points from 2016.

Moreover, there's little in Trump's record that suggests his support among voters had much to do with pro-worker policies. Deregulation, conservative judicial appointments, corporate and income tax cuts: This is ambrosia for the "Zombie Reaganite" elites – the kind who are "stubbornly moored to laissez-faire fundamentalism and limited government." The most aggressive policy Trump pushed in the name of the American worker was protectionism, which ended up hurting more workers than helping, and made free trade more popular.

In short, the problem with seeing the Trump coalition as the foundation of Trumpism-without-Trump rests on the same misdiagnosis of intellectual Trumpism. It assumes there's more to Trumpism than his entertainment value, his thumb-in-the-eye attacks on the media and his stoking of resentment. That's a hard model to replicate. Who among the current 2024 GOP hopefuls could fill one of his rallies? I mean, Mike Pence could repeat Trump's lines – just as I could sing Beyonce's songs – but that doesn't mean people will show up to listen.

From the outset, Trump's 2016 coalition was a minority coalition in terms of the popular vote, but it was almost perfectly distributed to take the Electoral College. It might have worked again in 2020, except that Trump ignited an anti-Trump coalition much larger than the pro-Trump one. Going forward, the demographics of the electorate are moving in the wrong direction for the GOP.

The proponents of a new Trumpy Republican Party are certainly right about many of the Democrats' shortcomings and vulnerabilities. There's just very little evidence that Zombie Trumpism is the best way to exploit them.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

LETTERS

Republican leadership is missing in action

Editor,

I was born in St. Joe and grew up in Dowagiac. Stayed local for college and served as a Cass County commissioner. I still support the Berrien GOP by attending the Lincoln Day Dinner – this last one raising over $300 by auctioning a trip on my boat.

I spend thousands each year mooring my boat in Benton Harbor and frequenting Berrien restaurants. I recall when Berrien was a conservative powerhouse in Michigan under Sens. Zollar and Gast. Where is the power today? Who is defending the Constitution against the voting irregularities widely reported?

Sen. Kim LaSata and Reps. Pauline Wendzel and Brad Paquette swore to protect the state Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. Yet they are mum. Fred Upton is the senior leader of the state congressional delegation. Yet, he seems happier sending a picture of Biden endorsing him than

standing up for the sacred document that made the U.S. the most free and mighty country in the world? When will these people lead? When will they fight to preserve the integrity of the election process?

Texas filed a suit against Michigan and other states. Louisiana and more states are likely to join. Why is it Texas cares more about Michigan voters than Upton, LaSata, Paquette and Wendzel? Thank you Texas. Thank you Louisiana.

Gary Benedix
South Bend

How Nancy Pelosi's TDS hurt America

Byron York

One of the more appalling moments in the recent history of the House of Representatives occurred recently in the Capitol Visitor Center. Speaker Nancy Pelosi gave her weekly news conference and said that she had changed her position on the issue of passing a coronavirus relief bill. For months, as millions suffered the economic devastation associated with the pandemic, Pelosi stonewalled the Trump administration's efforts to pass targeted, short-term relief for those in need. Now, as if by magic, she's all for it.

What happened? A new president has been elected, Pelosi explained, and coronavirus vaccines are nearing public distribution. "A total game-changer – a new president and a vaccine," she declared. The kind of short-term relief that she blocked for months is now acceptable. "It's for a shorter period of time, but that's OK now," Pelosi said, "because we have a new president."

As policy, it made no sense. Why condition help for struggling Americans on the development of a vaccine? Didn't the lack of a vaccine in the last several months, with a virus raging and no end in sight, make it more urgent to help people? Yet Pelosi wouldn't do it. And why refuse to assist suddenly unemployed Americans until President Trump had been defeated in his bid for reelection? The speaker's explanation revealed the cold political calculations behind her actions. But it also suggested the personal obsession driving her refusal to approve aid at a time when millions of Americans were out of a job, stretching to pay the rent, struggling to buy food and desperately trying to make ends meet.

The short version is that Pelosi suffered from a toxic case of Trump Derangement Syndrome. Remember, this is the speaker of the House who made a show of tearing up her copy of the State of the Union speech in front of a joint session of Congress while the president stood a few feet away and millions watched on television. This is the speaker who called COVID-19, a worldwide pandemic, the "Trump virus." This is the speaker who suffered a meltdown in a White House meeting with Trump, standing up, pointing her finger at the president, and storming out of the room. This is the speaker who suffered another meltdown when a reporter asked if she hated Trump. ("Don't mess with me," she warned.) This is the speaker who announced an impeachment inquiry of the president – solely on her own authority – before seeing the evidence on which she would seek to remove him from office. This is the speaker who pronounced herself "heartbroken" and "prayerful" even as her top House lieutenants, acting under her guidance, raced toward impeachment. This is the speaker, in other words, who became obsessed with resisting the president.

That is the same Nancy Pelosi who was stonewalling virus relief efforts. In an election year, when a relief bill would help millions of Americans but might also, as an ancillary effect, boost Trump's reelection bid, she would not act. When the election was over and Trump lost, she would.

"I am somewhat concerned that she is afraid that any deal would be good for the president," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who spent hours and hours negotiating with Pelosi, said in September. No kidding.

What Pelosi was doing was no secret. "Pelosi Is Playing Hardball on Coronavirus Relief. She Thinks She'll Win," read a New York Times headline from August. Noting Pelosi's insistence on the huge relief bill the House passed, knowing it had no chance in the Senate, the Times continued: "Emboldened by Republican divisions and a favorable political landscape, the speaker is refusing to agree to a narrow relief measure, unbothered by charges that she is an impediment to the deal."

In her drive to stop Trump, Pelosi stiff-armed not only Republicans, but moderate Democrats as well. In September, the Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group with a number of Democrats involved, proposed a $1.5 trillion relief bill. Pelosi dismissed the effort. A group of her handpicked committee chairs dumped on the plan as a "retreat" that "falls short of what is needed to save lives and boost the economy." Meanwhile, Pelosi criticized similar administration proposals as "half a loaf."

So more months passed – until the presidential election gave Pelosi what she wanted. Now, she is ready to deal. But what about all that lost time? All that suffering? Pelosi doesn't want to talk about it. That was clear at her news conference, when a reporter asked, "Was it a mistake, though, not to accept half of a loaf months ago?"

A clearly angry Pelosi lashed out at the journalist for his temerity. "Look, I'm going to tell you something," she said. "Don't characterize what we did before as a mistake, as a preface to your question, if you want an answer. That was not a mistake. It was a decision. And it has taken us to a place where we can do the right thing without other, shall we say, considerations in the legislation that we don't want." The short version of that was: Look, we waited Trump out. He lost. Now, we'll act.

The good news is that relief might be on the way for millions of hurting Americans. And, as a side benefit, Pelosi's ugly Trump obsession might be easing. It's just too bad she couldn't get over it months ago.

Byron York is a columnist for The Washington Examiner.

Never Trumpers deserve thanks

E.J. Dionne

The shameful complicity of Republican leaders in President Donald Trump's torrent of deceit about our election tells us there is little hope for a more reasonable post-Trump GOP. But what about conservatism as a philosophy? Is it equally discredited?

Let's begin by just saying it: The country owes the Never Trump conservatives a debt.

Yes, many progressives have been uneasy with these unusual allies. They insist that Trump was not some alien imposition on conservatism but rather the product of long-standing trends in Republican politics. Trafficking in racial division and racism, nativism, extremism, conspiracy theories and voter suppression did not start with Trump.

Progressives are entirely right about this. But the Never Trumpers deserve our respect precisely because so many of them stood against these tendencies and, in more cases than not, undertook a deeper critique of their own side.

This applies to many of my conservative Washington Post opinion colleagues, the folks over at The Bulwark, the online journal that owes its existence to the right-of-center rebellion against Trump, and many of those ad-makers at the Lincoln Project.

For those of us arrayed from the center to the left, the awfulness of Trump is so obvious that we can underestimate how hard it is to walk away from the people who were your comrades for so long. In journals progressives don't pay much attention to, television networks we don't watch and Twitter feeds we don't follow, the Never Trumpers were denounced as renegades and traitors – and also saddled with far uglier, unprintable monikers.

True, these rebels-with-a-good-cause were a minority in their camp, but they were far from alone. Exit polls are imperfect, but the Edison survey suggests that perhaps 8 million of President-elect Joe Biden's more than 81 million votes came from self-described conservatives, and 3 million from Republicans (which doesn't include those who left the party because of Trump).

But what happens now? Some of the anti-Trump conservatives never lost their old faith and were simply repelled by Trump's odiousness. For them, there is no temptation to join the other side. They are unlikely to give much support to Biden and will go off in search of a more conventional Republican to champion in 2024.

For a significant part of the anti-Trump Right, however, the moral corruption of the conservative movement over the past four years is a source of genuine anguish and has prompted a crisis of belief.

As it should have. Conservatism has its attractive sides. But it is often a creed that devotes itself simply to the preservation of the power, wealth and privilege of existing elites. This view was outlined brilliantly by the scholar Corey Robin. He argued in his 2011 book "The Reactionary Mind" that when you dig down, conservatism ends up being about keeping the "subordinate classes" subordinate.

The pro-Trump conservatives offered a lot of evidence for Robin's point by rallying to a man entirely unsuited to power in a democracy because he gave them what they wanted. Trump consistently served the interests of the best-off and sought to lock in their gains by tilting the judiciary rightward.

A more humane conservatism can suit the elites, too, but its central purpose is to call our attention to those aspects of an existing order that are worth preserving because they serve not just the fortunate but all of us.

The British philosopher Michael Oakeshott was one of the most formidable exponents of what you might call gratitude-based conservatism. "To be conservative," he wrote, is "to prefer the familiar to the unknown, to prefer the tried to the untried, fact to mystery, the actual to the possible, the limited to the unbounded, the near to the distant, the sufficient to the superabundant, the convenient to the perfect, present laughter to Utopian bliss."

Even this lovely set of commitments can lead to complacency about a society's injustices and resistance to needed reforms and adjustments. These are among the reasons I am not myself a conservative.

But with a humane Oakeshottian conservatism, progressives can either make common cause at times of crisis (after all, we on the left and center-left are preservationists in our own way when it comes to protecting liberal democracy) or engage in good-faith debate (the "actual" often isn't good enough, and what is "sufficient" for some is often insufficient for the many who are left out).

Of course, I'd like the anti-Trump conservatives to admit the error of their ways and fully join my side of politics. But failing that, I still appreciate what they did. And I hope at least they can now champion a brand of conservatism that is about more than keeping the rich richer and the powerful more powerful.

E.J. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post.

OBITUARIES

Richard Rynold Klug

Feb. 23, 1926 – Dec. 8, 2020

Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near. James 5: 7-8 EHV.

The wait for Richard Rynold Klug is over. God graciously ended his earthly life Dec. 8, 2020.

This life began Feb. 23, 1926, in Sodus, when he was born into the farm family of Herman and Bertha (Jantz) Klug.

After marriage to Joyce Young on April 22, 1950, the couple eventually settled on a small farm in Sodus. For a livelihood, Rich worked for Whirlpool Corp., for 37 years, supplemented by commercial fruit farming. After retirement he and Joyce settled in rural Eau Claire. He enjoyed the lands where God placed him and he continued to garden, hunt, fish and glean the fields of family and friends until the end.

As a citizen Rich served two tours in the U.S. Army, and as an elected constable for Sodus Township. As a child of God he was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sodus and served on several of its boards and committees.

Immediate family members who preceded him in death besides his parents, are brothers and sisters: Herbert, Elsie, Emma, Anna, Hertha, Edward, Helen, Leonard, Arnold and Dolores.

Besides his wife, Joyce; a brother, Walter, and his wife, Eleanor, survive. Four children: Stella Strasser of Steyr, Austria, Rick (Rachel) Klug of St. Joseph, Ron (JoAnn) Klug of South Haven and Cynthia (Ron) Kucharzyk of Stevensville remain; together with 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces, many still living in the region, also survive.

Starks Family Funeral Homes is assisting the family. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service is still being planned.

It was Rich's desire that any memorial donations be made to Michigan Lutheran High School or St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Sodus. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Ella Jane Orr

May 15, 1923 – Dec. 6, 2020

Ella Jane Feenstra Vliek Orr entered her Heavenly home Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020. She was the only child born to Joseph and Alma (Bagley) Feenstra on May 15, 1923, in Decatur.

Ella went to Decatur schools, never graduating because she was needed to drive the tractor on her uncle Johnny's celery farm during the Great Depression.

At the age of 17, she married Henry Dale Vliek, making Dowagiac their first hometown as husband and wife. In between moving to four other towns, they finally settled in Keeler Township with their seven children and then delivered one more.

Ella worked at Bronte Winery, Burnette's Canning Factory, and in the Hartford High School cafeteria.

Ella enjoyed sewing, knitting and crocheting for her family's needs. She bowled at Sister Lakes Alley in a doubles league with Hank, and sang in the Keeler United Methodist Church choir. She really LOVED traveling and shopping.

Ella's family includes her children: Richard (Kathy) Vliek, of St. Joseph, Bonnie (Bob) Knight, of Niles, Sandy Schlieter of Hartford, Doris Vliek of Niles, Terry Vliek of Mattawan and Tammy (Ron) Ekema, of Kalamazoo. She was blessed with 19 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Her family also includes two sister-in-laws, one brother-in-law, several cousins, nieces, nephews and step family.

Ella is preceded in death by a son, Ron Vliek; daughter, Shirley Flick; her two husbands: Henry Vliek and Douglas Orr; her parents; a grandson, Ron Lefevre; and a great-grandson, Matthew Doktor.

A family only celebration of her life will be Friday, Dec. 11, at The Church Keeler, 63627 Territorial Road, Decatur (Keeler). Any donations may be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or to a charity of your choice.

The family has entrusted the Calvin Funeral Home, Hartford, with arrangements. Those wishing to leave a memorial condolence may do so at www.calvin-leonardfh.com.

June Joan (Nick) Nafziger

June 25, 1930 – Nov. 19, 2020

June Joan (Nick) Nafziger, 90, of Benton Harbor passed away Nov. 19, 2020, at her residence.

She was born on June 25, 1930, on Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Mobridge, S.D., to Thomas and Stella (Nick) Cain. She loved life on the South Dakota Prairie growing up with 19 brothers and sisters.

In 1957, June married the love of her life, Robert Nafziger, in Fairplain, Mich. Together they farmed and she ran the family U-pick orchard. June enjoyed her many customers, often praying with them. She loved sewing and making quilts for friends, neighbors and grocery store employees. Over her lifetime she also made over 1,000 baptismal robes for several churches in the U.S. and abroad.

Baking was another one of her joys. She would gift loaves of bread to neighbors or anyone who came to her home. June was an original member of the Eau Claire Seventh-Day Adventist Church, a member of the Coloma Seventh-Day Adventist Church and most recently the Harford Seventh-Day Adventist Church. She loved the church. June was known to stop whatever she was doing and pray with anyone, or for anything.

June is survived by her son, Dale (Sandra) Nafziger; grandson, Wesley; sisters: Catherine and Donna; brothers: Edwin and Marvin; and son-in-law, Randall Culbertson.

She was preceded by her parents; husband, Robert; daughter, Jean (Nafziger) Culbertson; sisters: Mary, Fannie, Florence, Mona, Virginia, Lily and Emily; and brothers: Martin, Peter, Carl, Vernon, David and George.

Mary Ann Zechiel

Mary Ann Zechiel, 91, of Kalamazoo went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Dec. 3, 2020.

Mary Ann was born in Cicero, Ill., to Frank Fingerhut and Mary Regeis.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband of 50 years, Roland Zechiel; her brother, Robert Fingerhut; great-grandson, Calvin Megna; and son-in-law, Jerry Johnson.

Surviving are her loving family, including three children: David R. (Kathie) Zechiel of Arizona, Cynthia (Gary) Elliott of Benton Harbor and Candace Johnson of Kalamazoo; six grandchildren: Jason (Melissa) Zechiel, David A. Zechiel, Lynne (JD) Rains, Melissa Pascoe, Eric Megna and Jeremy Johnson; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

She also leaves behind her faithful, beloved dog, Teddy.

Mary Ann lived most of her life in the Coloma and Watervliet area and sold Avon for over 50 years. Throughout her life she had a love for learning, animals and gardening. She was a volunteer for several years at Sarrett Nature Center and enjoyed many trips sponsored by Sarrett throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Hutchins Funeral Home in Watervliet is assisting Mary Ann's family with arrangements. She will be buried in Coloma Cemetery in a private ceremony.

Memorials may be made in her memory to the Humane Society – Southwestern Michigan Yeager Family Pet Shelter, or Sarrett Nature Center. You are invited to leave a message of comfort for her family at hutchins funeral.com.

Mildred Louise Teft

March 21, 1929 – Dec. 8, 2020

Mildred "Millie" Louise Teft, 91, of St. Joseph passed away Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, The Willows, St. Joseph.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph. A graveside service will take place at noon, Friday, Dec. 11, at Greenwood Cemetery, Bridgman.

Mildred was born on March 21, 1929, in Benton Harbor to the late Willard and Katherine (Ridenour) Teft.

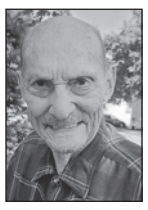
She was a teacher with the Lakeshore Public School system for many years retiring in 1989. Mildred was always joyful with a great sense of humor, she loved her students and teaching, had a twinkle in her eye and a beautiful smile and soul.

Mildred is survived by nieces: Diane (Horst) Massier, Cassy (John) Reinert, and Mary (Dan) Wolf.

Preceding her in death are sisters: Maryella Lee and Norma Jean Freier; and a brother, Willard Teft.

Charles M. Delk Sr.

Oct. 21, 1928 – Dec. 7, 2020



Charles M. "Pete" Delk Sr., 92, of Baroda passed away Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A celebration of life gathering will be graveside at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at Ruggles Cemetery, Baroda, with the Rev. Larry Nail officiating. Those wishing to leave a condolence of Pete online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Pete was born Oct. 21, 1928, to Patrick and Molly (Shelton) Delk in Johnson City, Tenn.

After high school, Pete went on to proudly serve his country in the U.S. Navy, serving for 22 years before retiring as master chief.

On March 25, 1955, he married the love of his life, Louise "Weezy" Sealy. Pete was known as a hard-working man; he was a maintenance engineer for over 25 years, working for Mercy Hospital and then for Lakeland Medical Center, before his retirement at the age of 77.

Pete was a "jack of all trades," always wanting to help his friends and family when something needed to be fixed. In his spare time, he enjoyed watching NASCAR and taking walks. Most of all he loved his family and will be greatly missed.

Pete is survived by his sons: Charles "Chuck" (Tammy) Delk Jr., Bruce (Debra) Delk and Patrick (Lindie) Delk; grandsons: Ryan Delk and Matthew Delk; and sister, Nancy Sifford.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Patrick and Molly Delk; wife, Louise Delk; son, Michael Delk; and sisters: Frankie, Jessie, and Irene.

Death notices

Debra C. Cupani, 67, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 6, 2020, in Kalamazoo. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Charles M. "Pete" Delk Sr., 92, of Baroda died Dec. 7, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Bishop George L. Dewberry, 78, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 4, 2020, at home surrounded by family. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Richard R. "Rich" Klug, 94, of Eau Claire died Dec. 8, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

John Loomis, 70, of Covert died Dec 9, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St Joseph.Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Charles Moore, 69, of Benton Harbor died Nov. 28, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

James Moore Jr., 55, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 3, 2020, in Grand Rapids. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

John M. Nicholas, 51, of Buchanan died Dec. 8, 2020, at his home. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Ella Jane Feenstra Vliek Orr, 97, of Keeler Township died Dec. 6, 2020. Calvin-Leonard Funeral Home, Hartford, 621-4101.

Marlene Pollock, 89, of Niles died Dec. 7, 2020, in St. Joseph. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Rodney Rutkowske, 86, of Niles died Dec. 9, 2020, at Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, Niles. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Margaret Elizabeth Schmidt, 95, of Coloma died Dec. 7, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Jerry G. Sisk, 72, of Benton Township died Dec. 8, 2020, at the Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service, Coloma, 468-3181.

Mildred "Millie" Louise Teft, 91, of St. Joseph died Dec. 8, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

George Walsh, 86, of St Joseph died Dec. 8, 2020, at Royalton Manor, St. Joseph. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Richard Weschgel, 63, of Watervliet died Dec. 8, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Devin H. Williams, 27, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 8, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Robert "Bob" Williams, 71, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 8, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Service, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Mary Ann Zechiel, 91, of Kalamazoo, formerly Coloma died Dec. 3, 2020. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Margaret Elizabeth Schmidt

Margaret Elizabeth Schmidt, 95, of Coloma went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020.

Margaret was an active member of the Anderson Indiana-based Church of God and gave her life to the lord when she was 17 years old. She taught Sunday school and Bible school for numerous years, sang in the church choir, and was an involved member in the church's missionary society. Margaret continually sponsored a number of needy youngsters through Children of Promise, a program which assists the poorest of the poor overseas. Additionally, she often gave to Mercy Ships and World Vision. Further, she visited the elderly and the ill on a regular basis for many years.

Margaret is survived by four beloved children: Earl (Janet) Sprague Jr., David (Karol) Sprague, George C. Schmidt, Jacqueline Schmidt; along with cherished daughter-in-law, Paula Schmidt; brother, James (Joyce) Gardner; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Margaret was preceded in death by parents: William and Edith Gardner; first husband, Earl Sprague Sr.; second husband, George G. Schmidt; son, John Schmidt; sisters: Ethel Moss, and Joyce Sornsen; brothers: George Gardner, and William Gardner II; granddaughter, Nicole Schmidt; and daughter-in-law, Dianne Sprague.

A celebration of life will take place at 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11 at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph, with Pastor Steve Starks officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. at the chapel. Burial will follow in North Shore Memory Gardens, 5027 M-63 North, Coloma.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Warner Memorial Camp, 60 55th Street, Grand Junction, MI 49056; or the Humane Society – Southwestern Michigan Yeager Family Pet Shelter, 5400 Niles Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Those wishing to share a memory of Margaret may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

UK probes whether COVID-19 vaccine caused allergic reactions

By DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's medical regulator warned Wednesday that people with a history of serious allergic reactions shouldn't get the COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech, and investigators looked into whether two reactions on the first day of the U.K.'s vaccination program were linked to the shot.

The advice was issued on a "precautionary basis," and the people who had the reactions had recovered, said professor Stephen Powis, medical director for National Health Service in England.

Pfizer and BioNTech said they were working with investigators "to better understand each case and its causes."

Also on Wednesday, Canada's health regulator approved the vaccine, with Dr. Supriya Sharma, chief medical adviser at Heath Canada, calling it "a momentous occasion."

Canada is set to receive up to 249,000 doses this month and Canadian officials expect to start administering them next week as soon after they are shipped from Belgium on Friday.

Britain's Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has said people should not receive the shot if they have had a significant allergic reaction to a vaccine, medicine or food, such as those who have been told to carry an adrenaline shot – such as an EpiPen or other similar devices – or others who have had potentially fatal allergic reactions. The medical regulator also said vaccinations should be carried out only in facilities that have resuscitation equipment.

Such advice isn't uncommon; several vaccines already on the market carry warnings about allergic reactions, and doctors know to watch for them when people who've had reactions to drugs or vaccines in the past are given new products.

The two people who reported reactions were NHS staff members who had a history of significant allergies and carried adrenaline shots. Both had serious reactions but recovered after treatment, the NHS said.

Stephen Evans, a professor of pharmacoepidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said the regulator had done the right thing, but the general public shouldn't be worried about getting the vaccine.

"For the general population, this does not mean that they would need to be anxious about receiving the vaccination. One has to remember that even things like Marmite can cause unexpected severe allergic reactions," he said, referring to the food spread that is made from brewer's yeast.

Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the school of public health at Brown University, said he would advise patients who have had severe allergic reactions to other medicines or foods to delay vaccination if they can while the two cases in the U.K. are investigated. He would extend that advice to people who carry EpiPens.

"The cautionary approach is to say to people who have had severe reactions to other things, 'just hold,'" Jha said, adding: "There is going to be a deep dive into these two people who got an allergic reaction" to the vaccine.

He added that because the vaccine is so high-profile, "every little thing that happens all the time is going to get magnified. We should talk about it, we should be honest with people, but we should put it into context and help people understand ... there is a small proportion of people who have an allergic reaction to almost any medicine."

The comments came a day after Britain rolled out its mass vaccination program amid efforts to control a pandemic that has killed more than 62,000 people across the country. The MHRA gave an emergency authorization to the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine last week, making Britain the first country to approve its widespread use.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

A shop featuring unique gifts and gourmet foods has opened in downtown St. Joseph. Urban Home Gourmet and Accessories began operation recently under the ownership of Mike Wolfe. Urban Home carries a variety of items, including gourmet foods, custom gift baskets and imported gifts.

1985 – 35 years ago

South Haven Fire Department has received state license to provide limited advanced mobile emergency care. Fire department members who are licensed as emergency medical technician specialists are able to perform more thorough on-scene patient evaluation under doctor's direction. Expanded service is being offered in cooperation with South Haven Community Hospital and Van Buren County Medical Control Authority.

1970 – 50 years ago

Police in the Twin Cities area received several phone calls early today about some streams of light seen in the sky. One of the departments referred a caller to the Berrien County Sheriff's Department, where a science teacher moonlights as a radio dispatcher. The midnight master, Albert Steffens, explained the luminous phenomenon as the northern lights of the aurora borealis. The lights were observed at about 2 a.m., and could be seen in this area for about half an hour. Northern lights seen this far south are a rarity.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Dec. 10, the 345th day of 2020. There are 21 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 10, 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, saying he accepted it "with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind."

On this date:

In 1861, the Confederacy admitted Kentucky as it recognized a pro-Southern shadow state government that was acting without the authority of the pro-Union government in Frankfort.

In 1869, women were granted the right to vote in the Wyoming Territory.

In 1898, a treaty was signed in Paris officially ending the Spanish-American War.

In 1946, newspaperman Damon Runyon, known for his short stories featuring colorful Broadway denizens, died at a New York hospital at age 66.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first Black American to receive the award.

In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona; trumpeter Ben Cauley, a member of the group the Bar-Kays, was the only survivor.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev concluded three days of summit talks in Washington. Violinist Jascha Heifetz died in Los Angeles at age 86.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Rain Likely	Scattered Rain	Mostly Cloudy
48°	38°	46° / 39°	43° / 33°	38° / 30°	37° / 28°

Local Outlook

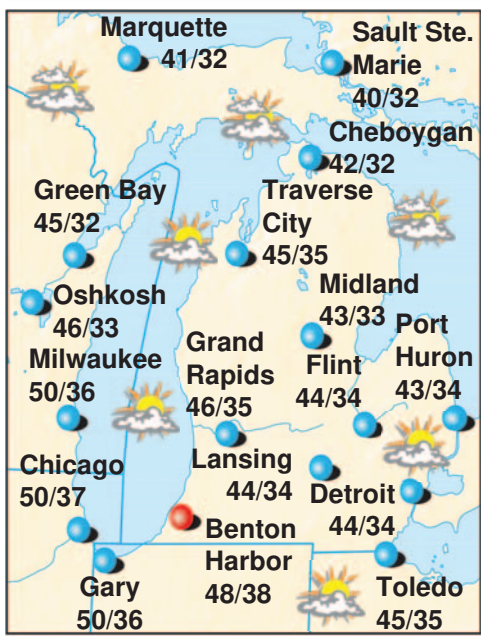
Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 48°, humidity of 62%. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 38°. South southwest wind 5 to 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 33°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	8:03 a.m.
Sunset	5:13 p.m.
Moonrise	2:57 a.m.
Moonset	2:46 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
12/14	12/21	12/29	1/6

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	48°
Low	29°
Normal High	37°
Normal Low	23°
Record High	55° in 2015
Record Low	-3° in 2000

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal for month	0.76"
Year to date	32.03"
Normal Year to date	36.09"

Air Quality

Yesterday	88
Main Offender	Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Sensitive
151-200	Unhealthy

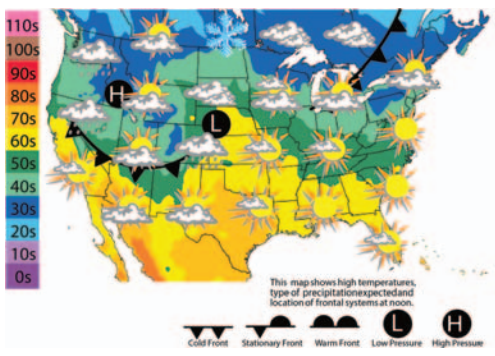
Weather Trivia

How many raindrops are in a thunderstorm? ?

Answer: One inch of rain contains about three million drops.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 10, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, SSE wind 6 to 10 kt. Waves 1 ft or less. Water temperature 45 degrees. Tonight, SSE wind 7 to 11 kt. Increasing clouds. Waves 1 ft or less.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 40s. South southeast wind 3 to 8 mph. Expect cloudy skies Friday with highs in the 30s and 40s. West northwest wind 10 to 13 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy with highs in the 40s. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Expect cloudy skies Friday with isolated rain, highs in the 40s. East wind 5 to 11 mph.

VACCINE

From page A1

one of them."

Amid a frightening surge in COVID-19 that promises a bleak winter across the country, the challenge for health authorities is to figure out what it will take to make people trust the shots that Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious-disease expert, calls the light at the end of the tunnel.

"If Dr. Fauci says it's good, I will do it," said Mary Lang, 71, of Fremont, California. She added: "Hopefully if enough of us get the vaccine, we can make this virus go away."

Early data suggests the two U.S. frontrunners – one vaccine made by Pfizer and BioNTech and another by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health – offer strong protection. The Food and Drug Administration is poring over study results to be sure the shots are safe before deciding in the coming days whether to allow mass vaccinations, as Britain began doing with Pfizer's shots on Tuesday.

Despite the hopeful news, feelings haven't changed much from an AP-NORC poll in May, before it was clear a vaccine would pan out.

In the survey of 1,117 American adults conducted Dec. 3-7, about 3 in 10 said they are very or extremely confident that the first available vaccines will have been properly tested for safety and effectiveness. About an equal number said they are not confident. The rest fell somewhere in the middle.

Experts have stressed that no corners were cut during development of the vaccine, attributing the speedy work to billions in government funding and more than a decade of behind-the-scenes research.

Among those who don't want to get vaccinated, about 3 in 10 said they aren't concerned about getting seriously ill from the coronavirus, and around a quarter said the outbreak isn't as serious as some people say.

About 7 in 10 of those who said they won't get vaccinated are concerned about side effects. Pfizer and Moderna say testing has uncovered no serious ones so far. As with many vaccines, recipients may experience fever, fatigue or sore arms from the injection, signs the immune system is revving up.

But other risks might not crop up until vaccines are more widely used. British health authorities are examining two possible allergic reactions on the first day the country began mass vaccinations with the Pfizer shot.

Among Americans who won't get vaccinated, the poll found 43 percent are concerned the vaccine itself could infect them – something that's scientifically impossible, since the shots don't contain any virus.

Protecting their family, their community and their own health are chief drivers for people who want the vaccine. Roughly three-quarters said life won't go back to normal until enough of the country is vaccinated.

"Even if it helps a little bit, I'd take it," said Ralph Martinez, 67, who manages a grocery store in Dallas. "I honestly think they wouldn't put something out there that would hurt us."

Over the summer, about a third of Martinez's employees were out with COVID-19. He wears a mask daily but worries about the constant public contact and is concerned that his 87-year-old mother is similarly exposed running her business.

COVID-19 has killed or hospitalized Black, Hispanic and Native Americans at far higher rates than white Americans. Yet 53 percent of white Americans said they will get vaccinated, compared with 24 percent of Black Americans and 34 percent of Hispanics like Martinez.

Because of insufficient sample size, the survey could not analyze results among Native Americans or other racial and ethnic groups that make up a smaller proportion of the U.S. population.

Horace Carpenter of Davenport, Florida, knows that as a Black man at age 86, he is vulnerable. "I'd like to see it come out first," he said of the vaccine. But he said he, too, plans to follow Fauci's advice.

Given the nation's long history of racial health care disparities and research abuses against Black people, Carpenter isn't surprised that minority communities are more hesitant about the new vaccines.

"There is such racial inequality in our society," he said. "There's bound to be some hiccups."

Health experts say it is not surprising that people have doubts because it will take time for the vaccines' study results to become widely known.

"Sometimes you have to ask people more than once," said John Grabenstein of the Immunization Action Coalition, a retired Army colonel who directed the Defense Department's immunization program. He said many eventually will decide it's "far, far better to take this vaccine than run the risk of coronavirus infection."

Adding to the challenge are political divisions that have hamstrung public health efforts to curtail the outbreak. The poll found 6 in 10 Democrats said they will get vaccinated compared with 4 in 10 Republicans; about a third of Republicans said they won't.

Only about 1 in 5 Americans are very or extremely confident that vaccines will be safely and quickly distributed, or fairly distributed, though majorities are at least somewhat confident.

Don Campbell / HP staff

Cochran waves goodbye to a family member as she prepares to hand out holiday gift bags containing wrapping paper and decorations.

SCOUTS

From page A1

to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Cochran had her work cut out for her.

She had to earn at least 23 badges in two years.

"To meet the minimum requirements is an accomplishment," she explained.

She also had to complete one final task – undertake a project to benefit the community.

The many boxes and bags of holiday decorations and gift wrapping that stores had donated to the church over the years gave her an idea.

"All of it was stored in the basement. My pastor wanted me to figure out what to do with it," Cochran said.

With the help of friends, family and other Scouts, she began sorting through and organizing all of the items with the intention of packaging them in separate bags to give to people in need.

"There was at least 1,000 items," she said.

But as it turned out, it wasn't enough. She wanted to ensure that each bag contained tissue paper, wrap, tape and an assortment of decorations. She also wanted to fill at least 100 bags.

To do so, though, she had to seek more donations and raise money to buy additional holiday wrap and decor.

With the help of more than 100 donors, Cochran and approximately 25 other volunteers filled 106 holiday bags.

This week she began distributing them to people seeking food at the food pantry at First Congregational Church.

"Hopefully it will bring joy to them during the holiday season," she said.

Judging from the smiles and thank you's Cochran received during Wednesday's distribution – mission accomplished.

FLINT

From page A1

from Detroit's system to the Flint River in a money-saving move while under supervision of a state financial manager. City workers followed state environmental officials' advice not to use anti-corrosive additives. Without those treatments, water from the river scraped lead from aging pipes and fixtures, contaminating tap water.

Elevated levels of lead, a neurotoxin, were detected in children, and 12 people died in a Legionnaires' disease outbreak that experts suspect was linked to the improperly treated water.

Officials said this week that Flint has taken important steps toward resolving the crisis, such as replacing more than 9,700 lead service lines.

The state attorney general's office said U.S. District Judge Judith Levy may rule on a motion for preliminary approval of the settlement in mid-January. The state deal was first announced in August. Other defendants joined in November, and full details of the agreement were filed in court.

Expanded Outdoor Seating!
Fiddler's Hearth
Family-Friendly Public House
fiddlershearth.com
2020 Readers' Choice
South Bend TRIBUNE
Voted
Best Irish Pub
by South Bend Tribune Readers!
We are in compliance with CDC suggested guidelines.
TOUCHLESS ONLINE SERVICE
View our menu, order & pay online at:
fiddlershearth.com/order ... OR
SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA APP
Trip advisor best hamburger in South Bend
One of 50 of the best Irish pubs in the country (Travel/Leisure Magazine)
New Weekend Brunch! 11am-3pm
Once your order is placed, call us at 574-232-2853 and we will bring your food and drinks out to you!
if online isn't your thing, Check with us inside
127 N. Main Street, Downtown, South Bend
(574) 232-2853 • www.fiddlershearth.com

hp SPORTS

U-M cancellation leads to speculation

Oh to have been a fly on the wall of Schembechler Hall this past week.

Can one imagine the conversations that must have taken place over whether or not Michigan should cancel its game with Ohio State?

Al Arend
Big Al's Picks

That decision by Michigan to cancel "The Game" came down Tuesday, fueling the questions of many: Was the game really called off due to the escalating coronavirus within U-M's football program, or to avoid an embarrassing beatdown by the Buckeyes, a 29-point favorite?

Let's sincerely hope that the virus was the only reason.

But until U-M comes clean on the exact number of its football players affected by the virus – was it one, two, 10 or 20 – speculation will continue. As of this writing (Wednesday morning) it hadn't, nor is it required to do so.

However, one question remains on my mind:

If Michigan was say, one game behind Ohio State, and had a competitive team capable of beating the Buckeyes and advancing to the Big Ten Championship game, would it have canceled "The Game"?

I'm not that naïve!

But the Wolverines at 2-4 are experiencing one of their worst seasons ever. A season that includes a shocking upset loss to rival Michigan State, the most lopsided home loss to Wisconsin since 1935, the first loss to Indiana in 33 years, and a loss to previously-winless Penn State. How much more can U-M fans take?

The cancellation of the Maryland game the week before just laid the groundwork for this week's not-so-shocking announcement.

Idle thought No. 1

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh isn't going anywhere, unless HE decides to rejoin some NFL team as their head coach. As I've said many times before, Michigan can not and will not fire him. It would ruin its whole arrogant "Michigan Man" propaganda image.

Idle thought No. 2

With No. 4 Ohio State and No. 5 Texas A&M both having their games canceled, they should have a College Football Playoff play-in game against each other on Saturday. Of course that won't happen.

Lakeshore game?

The Lakeshore at DeWitt Division 3 regional title tilt, scheduled for next Tuesday, has been postponed. As of this writing, no new date has been set.

On with the forecast:

COLLEGE
Last week: 28-13, .683
Season: 292-96, .753
Tonight
Fla. Atlantic 28, Southern Miss 20
Pittsburgh 33, Geo. Tech 22
Friday
Arizona St. 34, Arizona 24
Colorado 28, Utah 27
N. Texas 31, UTEP 24
San Jose St. 38, Nevada 34
Saturday
Penn State 34, MSU 20
EMU 28, N. Illinois 24
Ball State 38, WMU 34

See **BIG AL**, page B2

Carlos Osorio / AP

Michigan State coach Mel Tucker runs onto the field before the first half of a game against Indiana on Nov. 14. In a season of video conferences and empty seats, Tucker is doing his best to help people get to know him.

Remote learning

Tucker trying (from a distance) to help people get to know him

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

In the middle of a discussion about recruiting during a pandemic, Mel Tucker went off on a bit of a tangent.

What followed was lengthy explanation ... of why he gives such lengthy explanations when talking to reporters.

"Where normally we may be in the same room doing this, I could maybe bring more brevity to the situation and be more concise with the questions, with the answers," the Michigan State coach said. "But since we're doing it like this on Zoom and this is my first year here, and I know you guys are trying to get a feel for me, trying to get a feel for my program, I have to sometimes go into more detail."

Tucker's midweek news conference this week lasted about 45 minutes, and that's become the norm for the new coach. Seemingly any question can elicit a thorough, methodical response from Tucker – in contrast to some coaches who seem like they're just trying to get these obligations over with. Postgame availabilities can also include a good-sized monologue. After Saturday's loss to Ohio State, Tucker's opening statement – before taking questions – went on for a good 10 minutes.

Tucker framed his verbose approach as an attempt to help the media get to know him.

By extension, it could also be read as an attempt to help his new fan base learn more about its coach. In a season of empty seats and video conference calls, it hasn't necessarily been easy for Tucker to build a bond with Michigan State fans at large – but they should have a decent sense by now of how he operates.

Tucker isn't likely to end up on a highlight reel ranting theatrically – his demeanor is calm but serious. But like his predecessor, Mark Dantonio, he has a way of making his point abundantly clear.

"We've got to get better faster, because I'm not about this long-term deal," Tucker said after a 52-12 loss to the Buckeyes last weekend. "We need to get something done right now."

Behind the scenes, players have learned plenty about their new coach. Defensive end Drew Beesley said Tucker's attention to detail is noticeable.

"Focusing on the details, it seems like the littlest thing, but it's important, and taking care and taking all those details into account will potentially make the difference from winning the game or losing the game," Beesley said. "It's a game of inches and the details matter."

"But since we're doing it like this on Zoom and this is my first year here, and I know you guys are trying to get a feel for me, trying to get a feel for my program, I have to sometimes go into more detail."

MEL TUCKER
Michigan State football coach

Tight end Tyler Hunt said the coaching staff took the time to get to know a player – and the players themselves had to do research on each other as a way of building camaraderie.

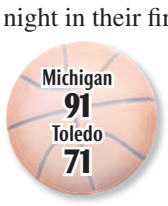
"We had to do research on all of our other players," Hunt said. "For example, (tight end) Parks Gissinger on the team, we didn't know until this summer was a really good dancer. Just doing all those personal things makes you really get to know your teammates well."

On the field, the Spartans have looked overmatched at times against the Big Ten's best teams, although they did pull off upsets against Northwestern and rival Michigan. In that sense, the season has gone about as expected for

See **TUCKER**, page B2

Dickinson's 18 leads Michigan past Toledo

ANN ARBOR (AP) — Hunter Dickinson scored 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked four shots and Michigan defeated Toledo 91-71 on Wednesday night in their first meeting in 37 years.



Isaiah Livers hit three 3-pointers and added 16 points for the Wolverines (5-0), with Franz Wagner scoring 14 and Austin Davis and Eli Brooks 12 apiece.

The game was just scheduled on Tuesday after North Carolina State announced Monday it had to back out of the scheduled ACC/Big Ten Challenge matchup. The last time the Rockets played the Wolverines was Nov. 26, 1983.

Dickinson, fresh off being named Big Ten Freshman of the Week, entered the game averaging 14 points on shooting 70 percent. He had a dunk, Livers hit a 3 and Wagner scored four points in a 13-0 run late in the first half that put Michigan up 42-21. The spread was 18 at the break.

A quick spurt to open the second half brought the Rockets (3-3) within 11 but Michigan scored the next eight and a layup by Dickson at the 13-minute mark pushed the lead back to 20 for good.

Paul Sancya / AP

Michigan forward Isaiah Livers (2) drives on Toledo guard Jamere Hill (1) in the second half of Wednesday's game.

Michigan continued hits hot shooting , making 9 of 16 from 3-point range and shooting 58 percent overall. Toledo shot 41 percent, going 9 of 24 behind the arc.

Setric Millner Jr. and Spencer Littleson both had 14 points for the Rockets and Marreon Jackson 12 on 4-of-16 shooting.

Michigan is scheduled to open Big Ten Conference at home against Penn State on Sunday.

Trubisky understands storyline with Bears set to face Watson

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

Mitchell Trubisky insisted it doesn't bother him that the 2017 draft remains such a hot topic in Chicago. The temperature is getting turned up a few degrees this week.

Trubisky and the Bears host Deshaun Watson and the Houston Texans in a matchup that shines a spotlight on two quarterbacks who entered the NFL the same year and are on vastly different paths.

"I don't control that narrative," Trubisky said. "I don't control what people say about it. It is always going to be a story just because that's the draft class we came in."

The narrative, of course, centers on a draft-night decision that backfired and its lingering impact on a franchise that could be in store for another shakeup. With the Bears (5-7) on a six-game losing streak, their worst since the 2002 team tied a franchise record by dropping eight straight, the choice they made in 2017 has returned to the forefront.

General manager Ryan Pace traded up a spot to draft Trubisky with the No. 2 overall pick. Kansas City grabbed Patrick Mahomes at No. 10, and Houston went with Watson at 12. While the Chiefs and Texans wound up with franchise quarterbacks, it didn't work out that way for the Bears.

"At the end of the day, all you can kind of do is try to play your game," receiver Allen Robinson said. "You can't compare. You can't worry about anything else around you. You can't worry about what other people are doing."

In Chicago, the comparisons are hard to avoid.

"That storyline is never going to leave for any of those guys, just like it doesn't for any of those quarterback classes you run into," coach Matt Nagy said. "Usually they're all compared."

Mahomes emerged as an MVP in his second season and led the Chiefs to the Super Bowl the following year. He and Watson are two-time Pro Bowl picks, and they rank one-two in yards passing this season.

Trubisky showed promise in 2018, when the Bears won the NFC North in their first season under Nagy. He even made the Pro Bowl as an alternate, with Jared Goff unable to participate because the Los Angeles Rams made the Super Bowl.

But it's a different story these days.

Trubisky's time in Chicago appears to be winding down. Nagy and Pace are facing heat. This obviously wasn't what they envisioned, particularly after that postseason appearance two years ago.

Trubisky took a step back last season, and the Bears missed the playoffs at 8-8. They acquired Super Bowl 52 MVP Nick Foles from

See **TRUBISKY**, page B2

Big Ten changes rules, lets Ohio State advance to title game

By MITCH STACY
AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Big Ten Conference dropped its six-game minimum requirement for the league championship game Wednesday, clearing the way for No. 3 Ohio State to take on No. 15 Northwestern in another chance for the Buckeyes to burnish their playoff credentials.

The Buckeyes (5-0) will try for their fifth straight conference title when they face the Wildcats (5-1) on Dec. 19 in Indianapolis. Ohio State finished the regular season with only five games after Michigan had to pull out of Saturday's showdown because of COVID-19 issues.

The rule change had to be approved by the Big Ten Conference Administrators Council, which includes athletic directors, senior women's administrators and presidents from all 14 schools.

"The decision was based on a competitive analysis which determined that Ohio State would have advanced to the Big Ten football championship game based on its undefeated record and head-to-head victory over Indiana, regardless of a win or loss against Michigan," the Big Ten said in a statement.

The conference determined before the season that teams would have to play six of their eight scheduled games to qualify for the championship game. Ohio State — No. 4 in the College Football Playoff rankings and the conference's only undefeated team — has missed three games because of issues with the pandemic.

The latest was the annual grudge match against Michigan, which canceled its trip to Columbus because of rising COVID-19 cases and players in quarantine. Falling a game short of the threshold set by the league, the Buckeyes would have

See **BIG TEN**, page B2

SPORTS BRIEFS

No plan yet to possibly resume MHSAA fall sports

EAST LANSING(AP) — The Michigan High School Athletic Association took no action Wednesday on possibly rescheduling fall championship tournaments in football, swimming and volleyball.

The group's Representative Council will meet again Dec. 16, spokesman Geoff Kimmerly said.

The MHSAA had planned to finish the tournaments by the end of December. But Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration this week banned sports and in-person high school classes through at least Dec. 20 to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

No. 19 Michigan women beat Butler

ANN ARBOR (AP) — Naz Hillmon had 25 points and seven rebounds, Leigha Brown scored 19 points and No. 19 Michigan beat Butler 93-54 on Wednesday.

Michelle Sidor added 16 points with four 3-pointers and Akienreh Johnson had 12 points and five assists for Michigan (5-0), which is off to its best start since opening 7-0 in the 2011-12 season. Hillmon was 10-of-13 shooting as the Wolverines shot 55.6 percent from the field.

TUCKER

From page B1

a rebuilding program.

But in addition to winning games, Tucker's job also requires him to build connections – not just with his players and recruits, but to some extent with reporters and fans as well. This year, his lengthy video conferences are an opportunity to do that.

"You're evaluating me and my demeanor and how I answer questions and how I treat you with respect or not, and you're making a judgement on me and what type of person you think I am, what my competency level is," Tucker said. "Do you think that you can trust me and what I'm saying? Do you think that I know what I'm talking about? Do you think that I'm worthy? Do you think that I can build a program? And you can do that through Zoom."

BIG TEN

From page B1

been outside looking in.

Ohio State Coach Ryan Day said he was "appreciative" that other conference schools voted for the revision.

"A lot of changes have happened since that (six-game) recommendation was put in place," Day said in a statement. "I know making this decision was not easy, and I am thankful for the opportunity our players will now have to play in Indianapolis as an undefeated East Division champion."

Though Ohio State is already in the top four of the CFP rankings, a win against Northwestern could be important in seeding. The CFP selection committee said it ranks teams based on on-field performace, "using conference championships won, strength of schedule, head-to-head results and comparison of results against common opponents to decide among teams that are comparable."

The ACC made a similar decision recently, guaranteeing a league title game between Clemson and Notre Dame with both teams also hoping for a CFP berth along with a conference champinoship.

The Big Ten change was made at the expense of surprising Indiana (6-1), which would have gone to the title game if the six-game rule had remained intact. The No. 9 Hoosiers, who lost 42-35 at Ohio State this season, had Saturday's game against rival Purdue called off because of COVID-19 issues.

Indiana athletic director Scott Dolson said the Hoosiers were looking forward to completing one of the best seasons in program history.

"Although we understand the conference's decision, we are disappointed," Dolson said. "From the start of the year, we have said we can only control what we can control. We had a chance to earn our spot in the Big Ten championship game, but ultimately fell a touchdown short on the road against a great Ohio State team."

BIG AL

From page B1

Toledo 37, CMU 23
Iowa 28, Wisconsin 22
Maryland 28, Rutgers 21
Nebraska 35, Minnesota 24
Northwestern 31, Illinois 21
Alabama 52, Arkansas 13
App. State 35, Geo. Southern 23
Army 28, Navy 21
Auburn 35, Miss. St. 28
Boise St. 32, Wyoming 21
Buffalo 52, Akron 10
BYU 45, San Diego St. 27
C. Carolina 42, Troy 27
California 34, Wash. State 31
Colorado St. 21, Utah St. 17
Georgia 42, Missouri 28
Florida 42, LSU 20
Florida St. 33, Duke 24
Fresno State 38, N. Mexico 24
Hawaii 35, UNLV 17
Houston 34, Memphis 31
Miami 35, N. Carolina 31
Oklahoma 41, W. Virginia 27
Okla. St. 31, Baylor 27
Oregon 34, Washington 28
Stanford 31, Oregon St. 27
TCU 37, La. Tech 20
Tennessee 30, Vanderbilt 7
Texas 52, Kansas 17
UAB 36, Rice 26
USC 35, UCLA 31
Virginia Tech 31, Virginia 28
Wake Forest 28, Louisville 24

Al Arend is a sports correspondent for The Herald-Palladium. His weekly football predictions appear every Thursday throughout the college season.

TRUBISKY

From page B1

Jacksonville in the offseason and declined their fifth-year option for 2021 on their once-prized quarterback.

Trubisky opened this season as the starter, only to get benched during a Week 3 comeback win at Atlanta. He returned to the lineup two weeks ago in a blowout at Green Bay, with the struggling Foles sidelined by a hip and glute injury, and gave the ball away three times.

Trubisky went without a turnover against Detroit last weekend at Soldier Field until about two minutes remained in the game. He was strip-sacked by Romeo Okwara deep in Chicago territory. It led to a 5-yard touchdown by Adrian Peterson, sending Chicago to a 34-30 loss.

Now, Watson and the Texans are coming to town. Trubisky understands there's no avoiding the storyline.

"It was me, Deshaun and Pat," he said. "We were picked where we were, and now it's up to us to make the most out of our opportunities. They've done a great job with theirs and I'm still trying to write my story here, so that's all there is to it, and my opportunity is to go out and lead my team this week and try to get a win. I'm excited about that. I'm also happy for their success as well because obviously they've earned it."

NOTE: LB Khalil Mack missed practice because of a shoulder injury and is day to day after getting banged up during the Detroit game. "I think it was just a little bit of some different times in the game where he got hit, and then you get to a point where you want to make sure – especially right now at this part of the season – (you) care of him," Nagy said. "We obviously need him."

Dick Allen is a baseball legend – Hall of Fame or not

CHICAGO – Growing up at Comiskey Park in the late 1960s and early 1970s was like having a giant playground built just for you and your friends.

Paul Sullivan

The Chicago White Sox were not a good team, and the ballpark was usually empty. You could go anywhere you wanted, so we would spend much of the game walking around the vast concourse from home plate to the bleachers or venture into the upper deck. A trip to Comiskey included a Sox game, but watching the Sox wasn't why we went.

That all changed when Dick Allen arrived on the South Side in 1972.

The Sox suddenly started winning again, the ballpark got crowded and whenever Allen stepped to the plate with his 40-ounce bat, the moment seemed frozen in time. Everyone paid attention because every at-bat brought the promise of something you never had seen before.

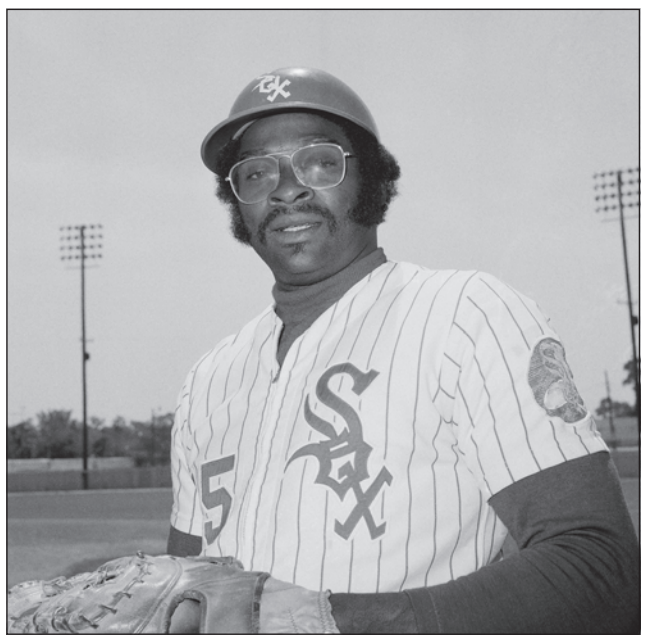
Maybe that's why Allen's death Monday at age 78 was felt by so many Chicagoans of a certain age.

Allen's career on the South Side was a mere blip in our baseball-loving lives, lasting only three seasons from 1972 to '74. He had been gone for nearly five decades, and he rarely returned to Chicago. There are no reminders of his Sox career painted on the walls of Guaranteed Rate Field, as there are for Bo Jackson, another legend who played in only 108 games in a Sox uniform.

The franchise Allen helped save never fully recognized his contributions, so it was up to baby boomer Sox fans to keep the stories alive.

Fortunately, Sox fans did remember Allen, as he acknowledged during a phone interview I conducted with him last month.

He called his stay in Chicago the best time of his career, and he remembered fans giving him his space and treating him like a king, in stark contrast to his years in Philadelphia, when Allen was forced to wear a batting helmet in the field to dodge batteries being thrown at his head.



AP photo

Dick Allen, a fearsome hitter who was a seven-time All-Star, the 1964 NL Rookie of the Year and the 1972 AL MVP, has died. He was 78.

"The image they print, I'm not that guy," he told me at the start of our conversation. "I don't sound like that kind of guy to me."

I never knew Allen, but those who knew him best concurred. Former Sox teammates Bill Melton and Rich "Goose" Gossage called him a great teammate and a respected leader in the clubhouse.

"He was a real man," Gossage said. "There was zero nonsense in him. And when it came to baseball and he was in the dugout, we listened. He once said: 'Why don't you (bleeping) guys watch the game? You might learn something.'

"Boy, you could hear a pin drop. You talk about badasses. He was a true badass."

They didn't measure exit velocity back in the day, so we can't prove Allen's line drives were the hardest-hit balls of his or any other era.

Some things we just know because our eyes tell us so.

Gossage loves telling the story of a line drive Allen hit past Mickey Lolich's ear at Tiger Stadium that "undressed" the Detroit Tigers pitcher. Tigers center fielder Mickey Stanley took a step in, then watched it sailed over his head to the wall.

Lolich stayed on the ground for a while, and afterward reporters asked if the liner had hit him.

"No," Lolich said. "I thought it was going to hit the center-field fence."

Then why did he stay on the ground?

"Because I thought it was going to ricochet off the fence and come back and kill me," Lolich dryly replied.

That 1972 Sox team was a blast to watch, especially if you were a kid used to seeing them lose. They went head to head in the American League West with the Oakland A's, who were in the first year of their three straight World Series championship seasons.

The A's had stars such as Reggie Jackson, Sal Bando, Joe Rudi, Vida Blue, Catfish Hunter and Ken Holtzman. The Sox had Allen, Melton, Wilbur Wood, Stan Bahnsen and two promising kid relievers in Gossage and Terry Forster.

On Aug. 6, the Sox trailed the A's by 4 1/2 games. But they won 14 of their next 18 to go up by 1 1/2. Allen hit .349 with a 1.179 OPS during that stretch, which included his legendary home run to center field at Comiskey off New York Yankees pitcher Lindy McDaniel.

In the end, the Sox were no match for one of the greatest teams of the last 60 years.

"But we gave them a run for their money," Gossage said. "Dick put us on his shoulders, and he carried us through that whole season."

Gossage, a Hall of Famer, credited Allen, manager Chuck Tanner and pitching coach Johnny Sain for teaching him how to pitch in the major leagues.

"All the stars were aligned when I got to the big leagues with the Sox," he said. "I could throw a ball through a car wash without it getting wet, but I had no idea what a breaking ball was, an off-speed pitch or a changeup. Then to run into Johnny Sain, and Dick Allen putting me under his wing …"

Allen told Gossage to throw inside more often and let hitters know the inner half of the plate belonged to him. Gossage was afraid he would hit someone in the head.

"He said: 'Good, the best thing you can do is drill a couple of these (bleeps). They're all watching over there in that dugout,' " Gossage said. "Bob Gibson always said: 'Half of that plate is mine. It's up to you to guess which half I'm coming after.'

"I was just a rookie. Little did I know I was watching the greatest player I ever saw play. And that's quite a statement. I played with Dave Parker, Willie Stargell, but I never saw balls hit that hard – ever. He did so many things I never saw before or that have never been done since. Dick was the smartest baseball man I ever met. Chuck Tanner told me that before I found out myself. It was an education that all the money in the world couldn't pay for."

Gossage broke down and cried thinking about the time Allen and Tanner showed up unannounced at his Hall of Fame induction, driving together from Pennsylvania to Cooperstown to be there for him. He's upset Allen didn't live long enough to join him in the Hall.

"He belongs in the damn Hall of Fame," Gossage said. "They shouldn't even have a Hall of Fame if he isn't in it."

This horrible year has been a hard one for baseball legends. We've lost Gibson, Tom Seaver, Al Kaline, Whitey Ford, Lou Brock and Joe Morgan among others. Hall of Fame or not, Allen belongs in that group, and his place in Sox history is secure.

"We really lost a good individual and a great White Sox player," Melton said. "And he should be spoken about for many, many years in White Sox lore."

Paul Sullivan is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	3	0	.750	333	306
Miami	8	4	0	.667	303	212
New England	6	6	0	.500	274	255
N.Y. Jets	0	12	0	.000	180	353
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	328	273
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	359	326
Houston	4	8	0	.333	288	323
Jacksonville	1	11	0	.083	251	352
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Pittsburgh	11	1	0	.917	334	211
Cleveland	9	3	0	.750	306	321
Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	316	231
Cincinnati	2	9	1	.208	237	308
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Kansas City	11	1	0	.917	370	254
Las Vegas	7	5	0	.583	323	347
Denver	4	8	0	.333	225	320
L.A. Chargers	3	9	0	.250	277	345

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0	.417	231	265
Washington	5	7	0	.417	264	260
Phila.	3	8	1	.292	253	307
Dallas	3	9	0	.250	268	393
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-New Orleans	10	2	0	.833	347	241
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	344	280
Atlanta	4	8	0	.333	311	302
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	280	300
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	379	299
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	319	329
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	246	284
Detroit	5	7	0	.417	286	358
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
L.A. Rams	8	4	0	.667	301	243
Seattle	8	4	0	.667	353	321
Arizona	6	6	0	.500	332	296
San Francisco	5	7	0	.417	285	288

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched first round bye
-clinched home-field advantage

Tuesday's Game
Baltimore 34, Dallas 17

Thursday's Game
New England at L.A. Rams, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Arizona at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Denver at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Miami, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 4:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Phila., 4:25 p.m.
Washington at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Game
Baltimore at Cleveland, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas, 8:20 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19
Buffalo at Denver, 4:30 p.m.
Carolina at Green Bay, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

College Football Schedule
Thursday, Dec. 10
FAU (5-2) at Southern Miss. (2-7), 6:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh (5-5) at Georgia Tech (3-6), 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 11
North Texas (3-5) at UTEP (3-4), 6 p.m.
Arizona St. (0-2) at Arizona (0-4), 7 p.m.
Utah (1-2) at Colorado (4-0), 9:30 p.m.
Nevada (6-1) at San Jose St. (5-0), 10 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12
Rutgers (2-5) at Maryland (2-2), Noon
Oklahoma (7-2) at West Virginia (5-4), Noon
Wake Forest (4-3) at Louisville (3-7), Noon
Houston (3-3) at Memphis (6-3), Noon
Georgia (6-2) at Missouri (5-3), Noon
N. Illinois (0-5) at E. Michigan (1-4), Noon
Minnesota (2-3) at Nebraska (2-4), Noon
Miami (Ohio) (2-1) at Bowling G. (0-5), Noon
Illinois (2-4) at Northwestern (5-1), Noon
W. Michigan (4-1) at Ball St. (4-1), Noon
Alabama (9-0) at Arkansas (3-6), Noon
UAB (4-3) at Rice (2-2), 1 p.m.
Akron (1-4) at Buffalo (4-0), 2:30 p.m.
Navy (3-6) at Army (7-2), 3 p.m.
Coastal Carolina (10-0) at Troy (5-5), 3 p.m.
Cent. Michigan (3-2) at Toledo (3-2), 3 p.m.
Incarnate Word at A-State (4-7), 3 p.m.
Michigan St. (2-4) at Penn St. (2-5), 3:30 p.m.
North Carolina (7-3) at Miami (8-1), 3:30 p.m.
Wisconsin (2-2) at Iowa (5-2), 3:30 p.m.
Texas (6-3) at Kansas (0-9), 3:30 p.m.
Duke (2-8) at Florida St. (2-6), 4 p.m.
Tennessee (2-6) at Vanderbilt (0-8), 4 p.m.
Washington (3-1) at Oregon (3-2), 4 p.m.
App St. (7-3) at Georgia Southn. (7-4), 6 p.m.
Boise St. (4-1) at Wyoming (2-3), 6 p.m.
LSU (3-5) at Florida (8-1), 7 p.m.
Oklahoma St. (6-3) at Baylor (2-6), 7 p.m.
Louisiana Tech (5-3) at TCU (5-4), 7 p.m.
Auburn (5-4) at Miss. St. (2-6), 7:30 p.m.
Southern Cal (4-0) at UCLA (3-2), 7:30 p.m.
Virginia (5-4) at Virginia Tech (4-6), 8 p.m.
Utah St. (1-5) at Colorado St. (1-3), 9:30 p.m.
San Diego St. (4-3) at BYU (9-1), 10 p.m.
Cal (1-3) at Washington St. (1-2), 10:30 p.m.
Fresno St. (3-2) at New Mex. (1-5), 10:30 p.m.
Stanford (2-2) at Oregon St. (2-3), 10:30 p.m.
UNLV (0-5) at Hawaii (3-4), 11 p.m.

Postponements and Cancellations
W. Carolina (0-3) at North Carolina (7-3), ppd.
Louisville (3-7) at Boston College (6-5), ppd.
Troy (5-5) at South Alabama (4-7), ppd.
Texas A&M (7-1) at Tennessee (2-6), ppd.
Vanderbilt (0-8) at Missouri (5-3), ppd.
La.-Monroe (0-10) at A-State (4-7), ppd.
Mississippi (4-4) at Texas A&M (7-1), ppd.
Purdue (2-4) at Indiana (6-1), ccd.
Michigan (2-4) at Ohio State (5-0), ccd.
Ohio at Kent State, ccd.
Cincinnati at Tulsa, ccd.
Charlotte at Marshall, ccd

Montoya to return to Indy 500 in 3rd Arrow McLaren entry

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Juan Pablo Montoya will return to the iconic event next year driving for Arrow McLaren SP.

Montoya last raced the Indy 500 in 2017.

The Colombian won "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" as a rookie in 2000 and again 15 years later to give him a pair of victories in five career Indy 500 starts.

The Wednesday announcement that he'll drive a third entry for Arrow McLaren reunites Montoya with McLaren, the team for which he drove in Formula One in 2005 and 2006.

"I'm very excited to be joining Arrow McLaren SP for the Indianapolis 500," Montoya said. "I have some great history with McLaren from my F1 days and I'm looking forward to making some more at next year's Indianapolis 500."

Montoya will be teammates with Pato O'Ward and Felix Rosenqvist, the full-time IndyCar drivers for Arrow McLaren. Montoya will be paired with veteran engineer Craig Hampson at Indy.

"Arrow McLaren SP is thrilled to have a driver of Juan's caliber join the team for next year's Indianapolis 500," said Arrow McLaren SP co-owner Sam Schmidt. "His experience will elevate the entire team, including our young, talented lineup of Pato and Felix."

Montoya has won in F1, CART, IndyCar, IMSA and NASCAR and has championships in CART and IMSA.

Reporting results to The HP

Coaches are asked to report results of their events by 10:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays.

■ Email: sports@TheHP.com ■ Fax: 269-429-4392

■ Phone: 269-429-1294

Hometown Heroes

The Herald-Palladium will recognize exceptional results by local youth and recreational groups. Photos must be in focus and every person in the photo must be identified for publication. Teams are limited to one appearance a season and/or calendar year.

Photos and pertinent information may be emailed to sports@TheHP.com, mailed to Sports Desk, The Herald-Palladium, 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085, or simply dropped off at The HP.

PRIME TIME TV

THURSDAY EVENING DEC. 10

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7)(13)(41)(57)	Wheel of Fortune	Station 19 "Don't Look Back in Anger"		Grey's Anatomy "Fight the Power"		:01 A Million Little Things "Letting Go"	
CBS (2)(3)(22)	Ent. Tonight	Young Sheldon	:31 B Positive	:01 Mom CC	Mom CC	Star Trek: Discovery (N) CC	
NBC (5)(8)(16)	Ac. Hollywood	One Night Only: The Best of Broadway Broadway stars perform in the streets. (N)				Time Person of the Year (N) CC	
FOX (17)(22)(28)(32)	NFL Pregame	NFL Football New England Patriots at Los Angeles Rams. (N) (L)					
PBS (34)	Radar-Michigan	Frankie Drake Mysteries "The Pilot"		Father Brown Murder of a local writer.		Antiques Roadshow (Part 1 of 3) CC	
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	Silent Night -- A Song for the World The creation of the Christmas carol. CC				News	Seinfeld CC
MNT (50)	Family Feud	Dateline "Unchecked Evil" CC		Dateline A woman sickens and dies.		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	
WCIU (26)	Mike & Molly	Silent Night -- A Song for the World The creation of the Christmas carol. CC				King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME (46)	:00 Heartland	Heartland The family supports Georgie.		Highway to Heaven "Highway to Heaven"		Nightly News	
WGN (9)	News	black-ish CC	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 Presents Critical		The First 48 Presents Critical		:01 Killer Cases (N) CC	
AMC	National Lamp.	★★★ National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ('89) Chevy Chase. CC				National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation	
Animal	Catch	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch	
BET	6:30 ★★ The Wood ('99)			Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married Too?			
Big Ten	To Be Announced					Illinois Football	
Bravo	Southern Charm	Southern Charm (N) CC		Southern Charm "Love Sick" (N)		Watch What	Southern Charm
Cartoon	Teen	Gumball	Gumball	Burgers	Burgers	American	American
Cinemax	★★ Safe House	★★★ Half Nelson ('06, Drama) Ryan Gosling, Shareeka Epps. CC				9:50 ★★ Gamer ('09) CC	
CMT	Last Man	Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors				Dolly Parton	
CNBC	S. Smith	Path Forward: Race		Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	:45 The Office CC	Office		Office	Office	Office	Office
Discovery	:00 BattleBots	BattleBots "Let the Big Bot Battle Begin" (N) CC				Rocket Around the Xmas Tree (N) CC	
Disney	Raven	Jessie	Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd
DIY	Tree	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Bargain	Bargain
E!	Total	Total Bellas CC		Total Bellas (N)		Total Bellas CC	
ESPN	ESPN	Don't Ever Give Up		30 for 30			
ESPN2	:00 UFC 255: Figueiredo vs. Perez						
ESPNC	Football	College Football From Nov. 25, 1995.				College Football	
Food	Wars	Holiday Wars CC		Holiday Wars CC		Holiday Wars CC	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	:00 College Football Pittsburgh at Georgia Tech. (N) (L)						Lions
Freefrm	The Nightmare Before Christmas ('93)	:20 ★★ Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas ('00, Children's) Jim Carrey, Jeffrey Tambor. CC					
FX	Mamma Mia!	★★ Pitch Perfect 3 ('17) Anna Kendrick, Hailee Steinfeld, Rebel Wilson. CC				★★ Pitch Perfect 3 ('17) CC	
Golf	:00 2020 U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship First Round. CC						
Hallmark	Veteran's	Christmas in Evergreen: Bells Are Ringing ('20) Holly Robinson Peete. CC				Christmas She Wrote ('20) CC	
HBO	His Dark Materials	★★ The Photograph ('20, Romance) Issa Rae, LaKeith Stanfield. CC				9:50 Murder on Middle Beach CC	
History	Swamp	Swamp People: Ser		Swamp People: Ser		:03 Swamp People	
HGTV	Home	Flip.-America		Flip	Flip	Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Hoarding	Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried	
Lifetime	Christmas List	Let's Meet Again on Christmas Eve ('20) Kyla Pratt, Brooks Darnell. CC				:05 You Light Up My Christmas	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Jersey	Jersey Shore		Ridiculousness		Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Winter	White Sox Rewind From Sept. 12, 2020. (N)					
NFL	NFL Pregame		NFL Football: Patriots at Rams				
Nick	To Be Announced		Substitute	Friends	Friends	Rugrats	Friends
NGEO	Life Be	Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero (N)		Cursed Places-Map	
Oxygen	:00 Snapped	Buried in the Backyard (N) CC		Injustice With Nancy Grace (N)		Snapped The search for a missing man.	
Parmt	:00 ★ Grown Ups 2 ('13) CC				★★ We're the Millers		
Showtime	★ The Waterboy	Shameless "This Is Chicago" CC		Your Honor "Part One" CC		★★ The Upside ('17) Kevin Hart.	
Starz	:38 ★★ Garfield: The Movie ('04) Breckin Meyer. CC			:01 ★★ Hotel Transylvania ('12) Andy Samberg CC			Spider-Man
STZENC	6:39 ★★ For Love of the Game ('99) Kevin Costner. CC			★★ Two for the Money ('05, Drama) Al Pacino, Matthew McConaughey. CC			
SyFy	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift		:45 ★★ Fast & Furious ('09, Action) Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez. CC (DVS)				
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
TCM	His Girl Friday	★★ Never Say Goodbye ('46, Comedy) Errol Flynn, Eleanor Parker. CC				★★ Larceny, Inc. ('42) CC	
TMC	6:25 Croupier	★★ Hollywoodland ('06, Mystery) Adrien Brody, Ben Affleck, Diane Lane. CC				:10 ★★★ Don Jon ('13) CC	
TNT	:00 Bones	★★★ Ready Player One ('18) Tye Sheridan. CC (DVS)					
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures "Lingering Spirits" (N)				The Holzer Files (N)	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	:31 Miz & Mrs (N)
VH1	Martin	★★★ Scary Movie ('00) CC				Bad Santa ('03)	
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Man wonders if larger house could signal bigger problem

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My fiancee, "Diane," and her two sons live in a nice home. I also have a nice home, newly constructed. It's located 1,200 miles away, near my parents, my son and my job. Diane currently has no job nor family within 500 miles of her town. Her boys' father (whom she shares custody with) lives within 50 miles of me. My job and the custody arrangement for my son preclude me from living where Diane does.

Together, she and I would have three sons. The spacious five-bedroom house I own is more than adequate. Diane has made clear that if I sell my home and buy my neighbor's, which is a larger seven-bedroom manor, she will be on the next flight. If not, she won't leave. We could buy the manor with cash if I sell my home and she sold hers and put her savings into the purchase, but she doesn't want to use her savings.

Diane is my everything, but it feels like I may just be chasing a dream. I worry that if I'm not enough, will I be enough when I own a manor? – It's Complicated

DEAR IT'S COMPLICATED: I'm proud of you. You are seeing things clearly, which is unusual when emotions are involved. It appears your dream girl, the fair Diane, is attempting to blackmail you. If she can't be the "lady of the manor," she's not interested in uprooting her life. If you give in to her now, do not do it without an ironclad prenuptial agreement. Please stay strong, because if you don't, you may regret it for a long time.

DEAR ABBY: My sisters and I are beside ourselves trying to deal with our 90-year-old mother. She doesn't live in the same state as any relatives. She needs help paying bills, managing money, personal hygiene, taking medication and understanding things she reads. She refuses to give anyone power of attorney over her finances or to create a health care directive. She claims she's not going to die.

At the very least, she likely has some form of dementia. We want nothing more than to protect her interests, but our hands are tied. We have all spoken to her about the situation, but she insists that no one is going to tell her what to do. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. – Just Trying To Help Her

DEAR JUST TRYING: Believe me, you have my sympathy. Instead of telling your mother what to do, perhaps it's time to reframe the conversation.

Ask her what she would like done in the event of an emergency. Does she want "extraordinary measures" taken, such as CPR, and exactly what that means – a defibrillator, dialysis, treatment in an intensive care unit. Explain what all of them entail in detail. You should also ask, in a separate conversation, if she wants "the state" to take a chunk of her assets and decide FOR her to whom they should be distributed, or whether she would prefer to make her wishes clear while she's still able. Point out that NO ONE lives forever.

If your mother is really as demented as you fear she is, you may need the help of a social worker to ensure that she's getting proper care. Failure to do that could be considered elder abuse.

TO MY READERS: The eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown. (A bit early this year!) Happy Hanukkah, everyone! A joyous Festival of Lights to all of us. – Love, Abby

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Is girlfriend's 'weed-banality' cause for breaking up?

Carolyn Hax

DEAR CAROLYN: My girlfriend and I have been together for three years or so, and while things are great, we do not see eye-to-eye on a few things.

Her friends tend to be great, until they get high – and then I find it tough to be around them. It's been pretty much a rare thing, so I just absent myself.

Our state has legalized marijuana effective Jan. 1, and my girlfriend and her friends are all very excited about it. Of course, I am much less so, and the discussions we've had about it have been unproductive.

I hardly want to issue a "weed or me" ultimatum – and I am not even anti-weed. I am just anti- the banality of the discussion that these otherwise decent, fun people devolve to when indulging, and my girlfriend does not share my disdain of banality, I guess.

I don't even know what question to ask here, except I either have to accept the stupid as a regular thing or break up with my girlfriend, right? – Anti-Banality

DEAR ANTI-BANALITY: If it becomes a regular thing, then, yes. It might not.

It also doesn't have to be a weed thing per se. If they were all drinkers and you find it boring to be around shouting buzzed people when you aren't buzzed, or if they were all gamers and you find it boring to stare at a screen for hours, or if they were all art connoisseurs and you just like to spend your free time watching a ballgame, then you'd reach the same crossroads as this one: Is this how I want to spend so much of my limited time on Earth? Yes/no.

Thinking about it this way keeps you out of the whole judging-not-judging morass, too, which I encourage at every opportunity.

DEAR CAROLYN: I don't want anything for my birthday. I don't want my wife to do anything. She wants to make a cake or other dessert for me, but wants me to choose a recipe. I don't want it.

I know I am coming off as a Scrooge, but I would really prefer not to even acknowledge the day. It's not a milestone birthday, I just don't want anyone to make a fuss over me.

Is this one of those things where the birthday person doesn't get what they want, but needs to let others celebrate? – Anonymous

DEAR ANONYMOUS: I think this is one of those things where you say to your wife, is there a reason this is so important to you? And you listen carefully.

It is also one of those things where I hope she then asks you, is there a reason it's so important to *you*? So that you can both listen to each other and decide whose needs it makes the most sense to meet.

But she hasn't asked me so I can only hope she comes through for you.

The obvious answer: It's your birthday and you don't want cake so there's no cake. I'm resistant, though, to anything that treats adult birthdays as some kind of law. Better to identify the subtexts, trust each other, then make the call – and use your veto power only as a last resort.

And, um, happy birthday!

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

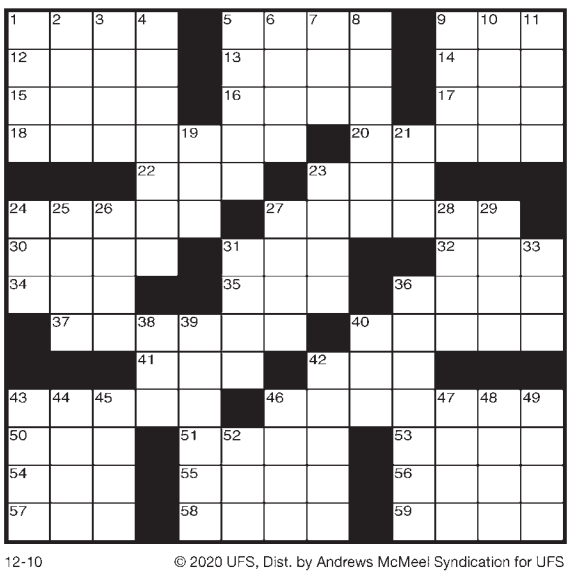
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Applaud
5 Clay pot
9 Suffered from
12 Successor to the throne
13 Get wind of
14 Capitalize on
15 Reverse
16 Excited
17 Hosp. employee
18 Belly-achers
20 Baker's buy
22 Run up a tab
23 Variety
24 Come afterward
27 Drowsy
30 Rider's gear
31 Greer or Holbrook
32 Disdainful snort
34 Scoundrel
35 Pacino and Hirt
36 Best or Ferber
37 Preacher's platform
40 Bothersome
41 Subzero comment
42 Firefly holder
43 Marshal's band
46 Office seeker
50 Caught ya!
51 Psyche
53 NBA's — Monroe
54 Female rel.
55 Lofty
56 Workout locales
57 Reaction to fireworks
58 Monsieur's airport
59 Bye, in Bristol (hyph.)

DOWN
1 Pal
2 TV host Jay —
3 Verdi heroine
4 Her or them
5 Windy City airport
6 Trouser halves
7 Southeast Asian
8 Sporty sock
9 Maui dance
10 Vipers
11 Mar a car
19 Lamb's ma
21 Barely get by
23 Reformers' targets
24 Bungle
25 Lowest high tide
26 In — (as found)
27 Ice melter
28 Most profs
29 Tug sharply
31 Bad — day
33 Fodder grass
36 Spookiest
38 UPS units
39 Magician's word
40 Tillis or Dawber
42 Fun-loving
43 El —, Texas
44 Indiana neighbor
45 Cummerbund
46 Declare invalid
47 Carquest rival
48 Was, to Ovid
49 "Frozen" heroine
52 Paddle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	H	O		P	V	C			F	I	L	E
O	U	R		L	E	E	R		A	C	I	D
V	E	E		A	R	E	A		K	O	N	G
E	S	S	A	Y	S		D	A	I	N	T	Y
			G	E	E		I	N	N			
F	L	Y	E	R		T	A	N	G	L	E	
L	E	A	D		J	E	T	E		O	R	D
O	W	L		R	U	L	E		M	A	N	E
	D	E	R	A	I	L		P	A	N	E	L
			U	P	C		S	H	Y			
T	A	H	I	T	I		A	R	O	U	N	D
A	L	A	N		E	T	N	A		K	O	A
C	O	K	E		R	U	T	S		E	E	L
H	E	E	D			T	A	E		S	L	Y



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JUMBLE

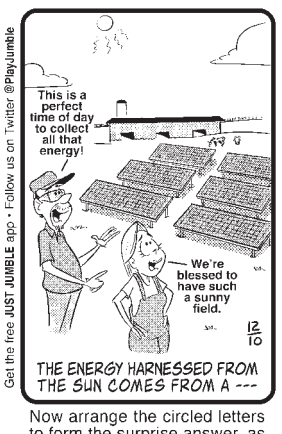
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SRAHH

ECOGK

LDIYWL

PPRAAE


This is a perfect time of day to collect all that energy!
We're blessed to have such a sunny field.
12/10
THE ENERGY HARNESSED FROM THE SUN COMES FROM A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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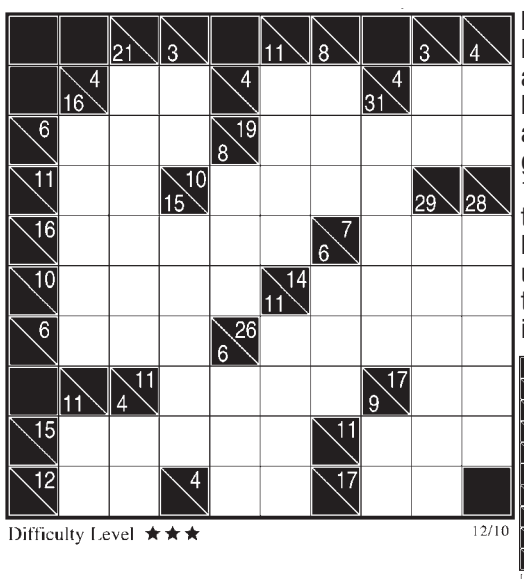
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

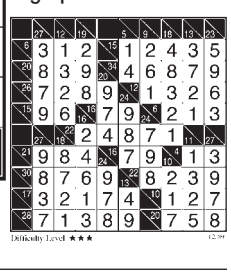
Yesterday's Jumbles: MONTH CHORD EXCESS POETRY
Answer: Beethoven's music has been widely distributed. He was certainly a — NOTED COMPOSER

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/10

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Abraham Lincoln said, "The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."

When you and your partner have a major-suit fit, it is beneficial to know how good that fit is – seven, eight or more trumps? It might help you compete to the correct level, following the guidance of the Law of Total Tricks. Or that knowledge might help you to decide whether to bid game or to stop in a partscore. In a major suit, when you have nine trumps, go; with only eight, stop (or keep thinking!).

One useful tool is the support double, which was devised by Eric Rodwell. This is made by the opener when he is able to rebid two of partner's major. Then, raising the suit guarantees four trumps (and the higher you go, the stronger your hand). Instead, double shows three-card support (and any hand strength) – see today's diagram. North's double showed three trumps. South, with opening count, jumped to game, knowing that if partner had a strong hand, he would bid higher.

After West led the spade king, how did South plan the play?

Declarer saw four black-suit losers, but he had one chance. After winning with dummy's spade ace, South led a low diamond toward his jack. East won with the queen and returned a spade, West taking two tricks in the suit. Next came the club king, but declarer won with his ace, cashed the diamond jack, drew trumps ending in the dummy and discarded his club losers on the diamond ace and king.

North 12-10-20
♠ A 5 2
♥ Q 10 7
♦ A K 8 2
♣ 7 6 2

West
♠ K Q J
♥ 5 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K Q J 9 8

East
♠ 10 8 7 3
♥ 6 4 3
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ 10 3

South
♠ 9 6 4
♥ A K J 9 8
♦ J 5
♣ A 5 4

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
		1♦	Pass
1♥	2♣	Dbl.	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

		9			7	1		
	6			5			8	
				9	4		2	
5				6	9		3	7
				7				
4	7		5	1				8
	4		3	8				
	9			2			5	
		1	9			2		

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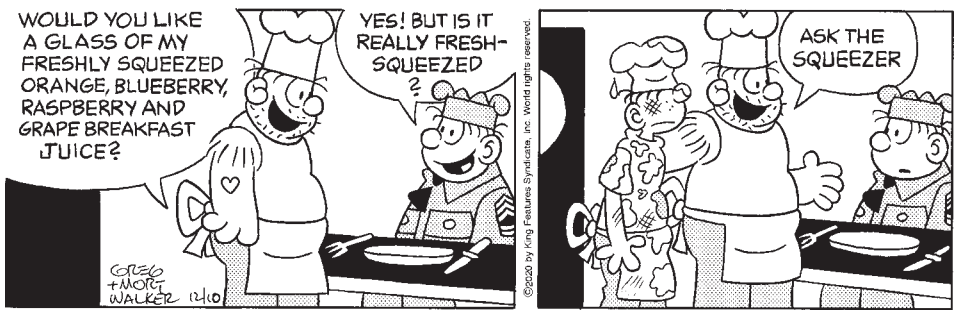
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

4	6	2	1	3	7	9	5	8
3	9	1	4	5	8	2	7	6
8	5	7	6	9	2	3	1	4
1	7	8	5	2	6	4	3	9
2	3	6	9	1	4	5	8	7
5	4	9	7	8	3	1	6	2
9	1	4	8	6	5	7	2	3
7	8	3	2	4	1	6	9	5
6	2	5	3	7	9	8	4	1

BEETLE BAILEY


WOULD YOU LIKE A GLASS OF MY FRESHLY SQUEEZED ORANGE, BLUEBERRY, RASPBERRY AND GRAPE BREAKFAST JUICE?
YES! BUT IS IT REALLY FRESH-SQUEEZED?
ASK THE SQUEEZER
GREG + MORT WALKER 12/10
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BLONDIE

"NCIS: NORTH POLE CRIME INVESTIGATOR SANTA"!
NOPE!
HO! HO! HO! DROP IT, PUNK!
IS THERE ROMANCE BREWING IN THE NORTH POLE TOY SHOP? FIND OUT NEXT ON "THE ELF BACHELORETTE"!
OH MY!
LET'S WATCH "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"!
ATTA BOY!
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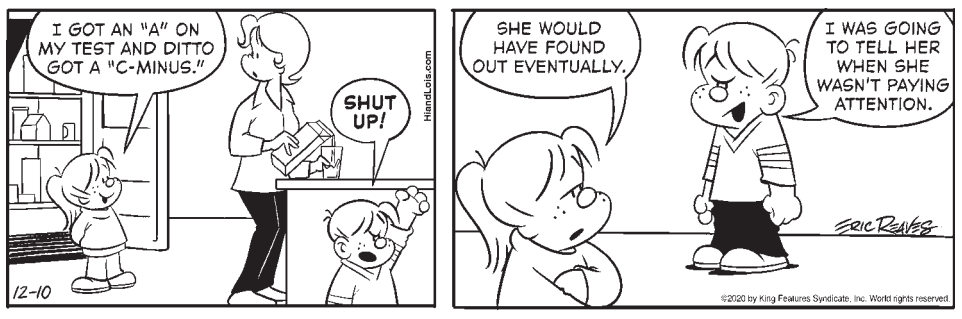
www.Blondie.com
12-10

HI & LOIS


I GOT AN "A" ON MY TEST AND DITTO GOT A "C-MINUS."
SHUT UP!
HiandLois.com
12-10
SHE WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT EVENTUALLY.
I WAS GOING TO TELL HER WHEN SHE WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
ERIC REYES
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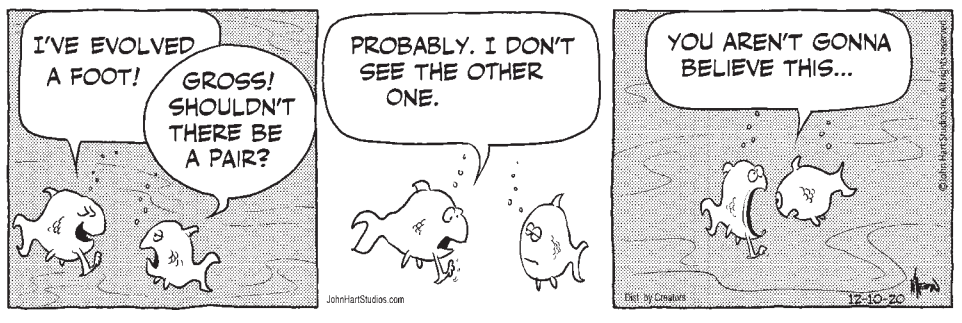
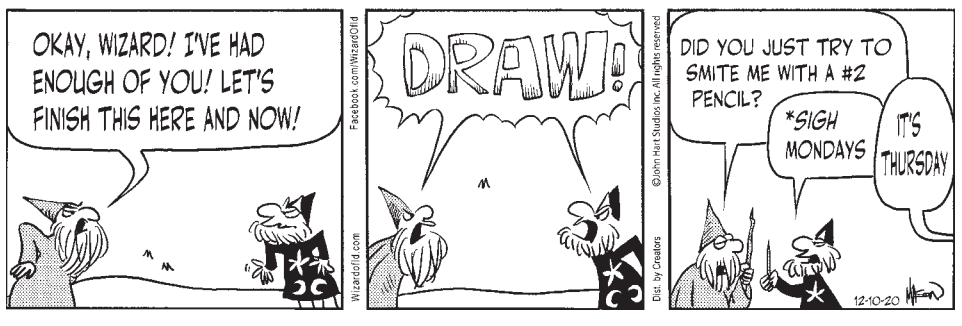
BC



WIZARD OF ID


OKAY, WIZARD! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU! LET'S FINISH THIS HERE AND NOW!
Facebook.com/WizardOfId
Wizardofid.com
DRAW!
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved
Dist. by Creators
DID YOU JUST TRY TO SMITE ME WITH A #2 PENCIL?
*SIGH MONDAYS
IT'S THURSDAY
12-10-20

DILBERT

WHICH OF YOUR TWO PROJECTIONS DO YOU THINK IS MORE ACCURATE?
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
THEY ARE BOTH RANDOM GUESSES. I MADE TWO OF THEM TO CREATE THE ILLUSION OF A CREDIBLE RANGE.
SO... WOULD IT BE REASON-ABLE TO PICK THE MIDPOINT?
IT'S AS REASON-ABLE AS YOUR OTHER DECISIONS.
12-10-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

I BET YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING, HAVEN'T YOU?
ACTUALLY, I'M DONE
I LOVE AND HATE HER SO MUCH
BALANCE IS GOOD
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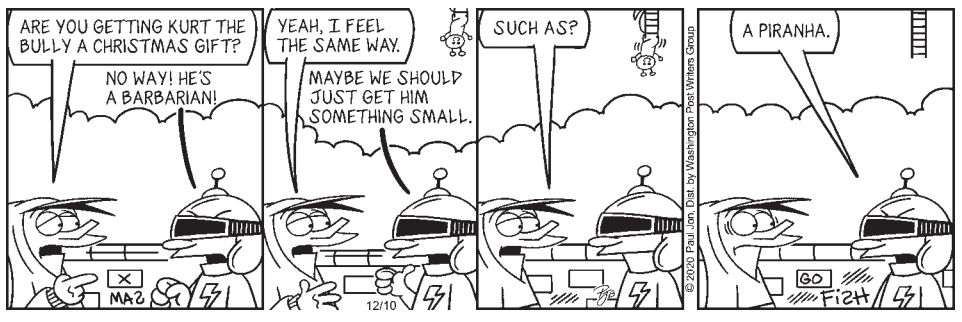
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 12-10

FORT KNOX


ARE YOU GETTING KURT THE BULLY A CHRISTMAS GIFT?
NO WAY! HE'S A BARBARIAN!
YEAH, I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GET HIM SOMETHING SMALL.
SUCH AS?
A PIRANHA.
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12/10

PICKLES

OH MY GOODNESS, EARL, ARE YOU CRYING?
NO!
YOU ARE! YOU'RE CRYING! THAT'S SO SWEET. IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
I CRY EVERY CHRISTMAS WHEN I WATCH "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE."
12/10
I CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER CRIED WATCHING "A VERY BRADY CHRISTMAS," THOUGH.
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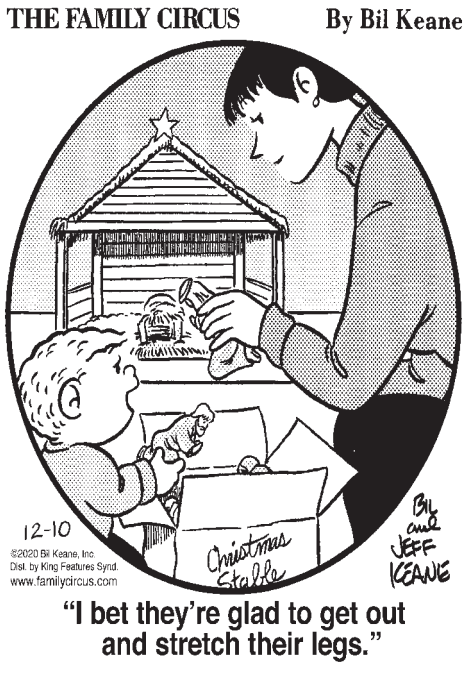
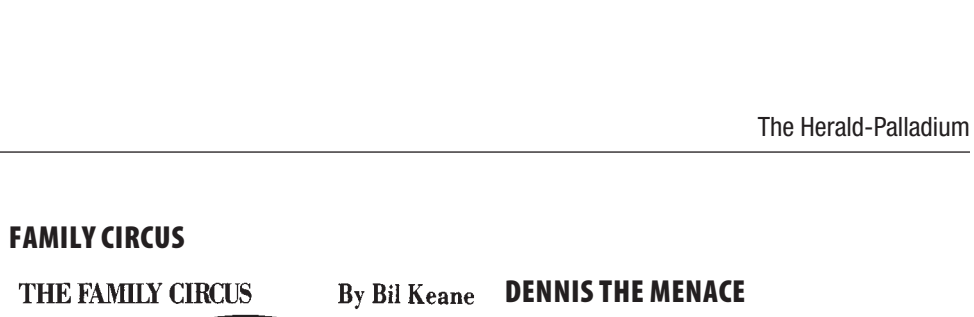
FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES


WHAT DO YOU THINK MOM WOULD LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS?
YOU KNOW MOM...
...SHE ALWAYS SAYS, "IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS."
WHAT ABOUT ONE OF THESE STURDY FLANNEL NIGHTGOWNS?
IF I WERE YOU, I'D KEEP THINKING.
©2020 BABY BLUES SCENE 4, LLC
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CURTIS

MOM, IT'S FUN MAKING HOLIDAY COOKIES
12/10
YES, IT'S THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY! THEY SHOULD BE READY BY THE TIME YOUR DAD COMES HOME.
DIBS ON THAT ONE!
NO, I WANT IT!!
BOYS, THEY'RE NOT EVEN BAKED YET!
BLAH NYAAH
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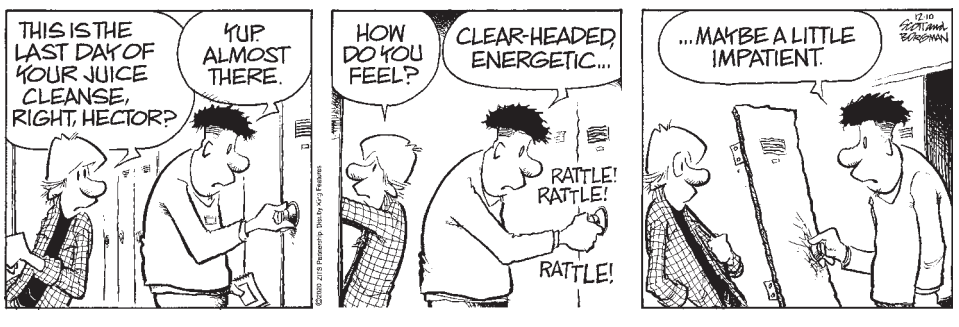
ZITS


THIS IS THE LAST DAY OF YOUR JUICE CLEANSE, RIGHT, HECTOR?
YUP. ALMOST THERE.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
CLEAR-HEADED, ENERGETIC...
RATTLE! RATTLE! RATTLE!
...MAYBE A LITTLE IMPATIENT.
12-10
©2020 ZITS Partnership Dist. by King Features

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, SON?
CAN I GET A BOOK CLUB MEMBERSHIP?
12-10
MAYBE... IS THERE A MURDER MYSTERY CLUB?
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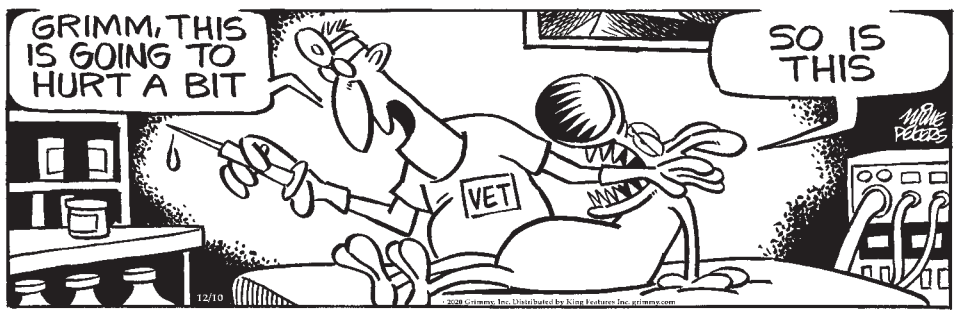
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS

SALLY FORTH

I'M HAPPY I HAVE THIS STORE. BUT THIS HAS BEEN A TOUGH YEAR. IT'S MADE ME QUESTION A LOT OF WHAT I THOUGHT I WANTED...
SOMETIMES ALL I CAN THINK OF IS SELL THE STORE, SELL EVERYTHING AND JUST LEAVE. JUST GO ANYWHERE ELSE AND START ALL OVER AGAIN.
12-10
WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
"PLAN A" IS NARNIA. BUT I'VE OPENED UP EVERY WARDROBE IN THIS STORE AND ALL I'VE FOUND ARE CLOTHES THAT REALLY NEEDED SOME MOTHBALLS.
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The Herald-Palladium

DON'T MISS

THIS WEEKEND'S ISSUE

Included in this Saturday's edition

Parade
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 | PARADE.COM
Plus
CHEESY CHICKEN CHILI, P. 4
Julie Andrews
ON HER ENCHANTED CAREER, HER TROUBLED CHILDHOOD AND THE WICKED FUN OF HER LATEST ROLE

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Pay attention to detail, and be responsible for achieving your dreams. Change begins with you, and the more you do on your own, the easier it will be to get things done. Listen to your intuition, not to someone trying to lead you in a different direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Look at your assets, what others expect of you and what you are capable of doing. Be honest with yourself and others, and offer only what's reasonable. You don't have to impress anyone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Stay focused on what you want to accomplish and building a strong, stable home environment that will soothe your soul. Don't let matters concerning institutions escalate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be observant, but don't let outside matters consume you. Be diligent when it comes to taking care of your responsibilities, and protect your reputation, position and status as you move forward.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Personal growth, improving your physical appearance and romance will alleviate stress and encourage happiness. Follow through with a creative endeavor that utilizes your skills.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A lifestyle change may scare you, but doing nothing will lead to regret. Believe in your ability to make things happen and to handle whatever comes your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Look over contracts, negotiate and consider your options. Don't let someone's uncertainty drag you down. Make decisions that are in your best interest. Romance will ease stress.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't believe everything you hear or participate in events that go against your beliefs. Be true to yourself, honest about how you feel and determined to live life your way.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Handle shared expenses with care. Concentrate on personal improvement, health, fitness and looking your best. How you present yourself to the world will make a difference.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Strive for perfection, be responsible and do your research before you make a move. A unique offer may tempt you, but you are better off doing your own thing. Challenge your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Look for a unique opportunity, and strive to do your very best. What you master today will lead to a new and exciting way to live your life. Romance looks promising.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Walk away from adversity and toward intellectual stimulation and educational pursuits. A change of heart will help you realize what you want out of life and how to make it happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) A reserved approach to prospects, coupled with behind-the-scenes work to put everything in place, will lead to the success you crave.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

MICHIGAN CITY

3 Bedroom Lower,

Includes air conditioning.

1/2 basement with washer and dryer

No pets!

$800 per month

219-872-4731

Michigan City, IN

Large, Restored, One Bedroom Victorian. Hardwood Floors, Ceiling Fans, Walk-in Closets, Off-Street Parking, Private Deck. $595.00 including Water. No Dogs.

The Firm Exchange, Inc. 219-363-3134.

Trade Lines

Tradeline home delivery routes opening (once a week delivery). Please contact Julie Simpleman to apply 269-429-1877

1. Baroda - Linco to West Hinchman and East, as far as Hollywood Rd. $75.00/2weeks

2. Benton Harbor - Meadowbrook/Sodus Parkway area to E. Empire and East, as far as M140 $240/2weeks

3. Berrien Springs - Area off of Old 31/M 139 - John Beers Rd to East Lemon Creek and West, as far as Hollywood Rd. $270/2 weeks

WANTED TO RENT

Summer Rental
Retired couple with dog looking for summer rental as close to Lake Michigan as possible - July or August. One week. Email info to: meyr985@msn.com

BUSINESS PLACES/ OFFICES

Michigan City, IN
Hair Salon/Storefront for Lease
Centrally located
High visibility area
Leave Message
574-850-7934

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

NEW BUFFALO, MI
U.S. HWY 12
(Near I-94 Exit 4)

Close to Lake Michigan

For Sale by Owner

3 bedrooms, 1.5

HOMES FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Overlooking 3/4 acre wooded ravine. 2 fireplaces. Recreation room with bar, 2 car detached garage. City water.
Call (813) 240-4494.

LEGALS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL NOTICE

St. Joseph, MI
I am reaching out to the community for photos and videos of my daughter, Robinette Greening when she attended gymnastics between 1982-1987 at Southwest Michigan Gymnats. Robin passed away 3 yrs ago from cancer. Her daughter is now 6 and interested in gymnastics.
Contact by email: ontherun2_00@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION/ TEACHING

School Guidance Counselor

River Valley School District
Employment info at: www.rivervalley schools.org
Deadline: Until Filled

TECHNICAL

Help Wanted
Jim's Heating Service
HVAC Service Tech
5 years experience
To apply stop in at 372 S Fair Ave.
Benton Harbor, MI
or call
269-926-1512

GENERAL HELP

The City of South Haven is seeking a Senior Equipment Operator in our Water/Sewer division. Individuals with one or more years of experience in the operation of power-driven equipment, including pay loader, snowplow, street sweeper, backhoe and other equipment are encouraged to apply. Must have good driving record, high school diploma or equivalent, possess valid Michigan driver's license and be able to obtain a CDL within 9 months of hire. To view full job posting and apply, go to southhavenmi.gov/human_resources. Deadline for application is Dec 18. EOE

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

BUILDING MATERIALS

LaPorte, IN
High heat bills
For Sale
Bubble Wrap Foil Insulation
100 ft Rolls
4' 5' 6' wide
Insulate your homes, pole barns, dog houses, etc.
Half price, will keep 97% of heat in home.
cheap!!
219-324-0444

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

BUYING JUNK
CARS & TRUCKS
Small Cars $200
Medium Cars $300
Large Vehicles $350
Call Larry at
(269)326-0510
Or Scott at
(269)208-9208

PETS

FARM

TRANSPORTATION

FIND A BARGAIN

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!

GET MORE LOCAL NEWS, DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOU!

GIVE US A CALL AND SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #

No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.
(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
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Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
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When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

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hp OUR TOWN

Photo provided

St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club President Matt Hanley hands a check to Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan Executive Director Linda Strohl.

Meals on Wheels awarded Rotary grant

ST. JOSEPH — In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rotary International Foundation recently allocated grants for distribution through Rotary District Foundations.

The St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club applied for, and was awarded, $3,750 for Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan through the Rotary District 6360 Foundation.

Club President Matt Hanley said in a news release, "Our club takes pride in caring for the people in our community. Supporting Senior Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan over the years has made a real impact for seniors in our area. We are thankful that the Rotary International Foundation, through the Rotary District 6360 Foundation, made available these disaster relief funds to support such an important local organization."

Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan has provided meals and more to local seniors since 1988. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the nonprofit has experienced great need and new requests.

Prior to COVID, it normally would deliver 300 meals in a day. In the early weeks of the pandemic, it experienced a 66 percent increase, according to the release. This increase is approximately 200 new meal recipients at a cost of $22,000 per month, at minimum.

The organization is one of few home-bound meal programs in Southwest Michigan that continues to deliver at pre-pandemic rates. Many other services moved to frozen or shelf-stable meals and limited delivery services.

Staff and volunteers continue to deliver meals and provide a small bit of normalcy for the seniors who have come to depend on them, not only for a nutritious meal but also for the daily check-in.

Rotary International is a network of 1.2 million members worldwide. Rotary District 6360 covers 15 counties in Southwest Michigan.

Niles Scream Park raises $109,000 for local groups during '20 season

NILES — The Niles Scream Park recently completed another successful season at its 44-acre site.

This year, the 47th consecutive year running the project, the Scream Park raised more than $109,000 for more than 60 area children's organizations, civic groups and charities, according to a news release.

Proceeds benefited local school and service organizations, including groups like the Boy Scouts, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Pets Connect, Niles High School Band Boosters and Relay For Life (American Cancer Society).

The funds raised also will be used for four college scholarships for local high school seniors.

Since 1996, the Scream Park has donated more than $2.1 million.

In addition to the cash donations, the Niles Scream Park supported local causes, auctions and benefits with ticket donations totaling more than $1,200.

The project included seven haunted attractions and provided volunteer opportunities in construction and operation of the park. Plans are underway for even more frightening additions in the coming year.

More than 21,000 hours were volunteered by more than 390 people before and during the 22 nights of operation to prepare and operate the seasonal attraction.

The year also marked interior visitor number 2.2 million. Morgan Fentress of Crown Point, Ind., was the milestone visitor. She received a gift pack when she visited the Scream Park on Oct. 11 with her friend Mario Rodriguez of Crown Point.

IN BRIEF

Reading programs start on Dec. 18

BRIDGMAN — The "Winter Reading Challenge" at Bridgman Public Library starts Dec. 18.

The challenge, for ages 2 and older, runs through Feb. 6.

Patrons can sign into Wandoo Reader at www.bridgmanlibrary.com starting Dec. 18 with the same log-in information they used for the summer reading program.

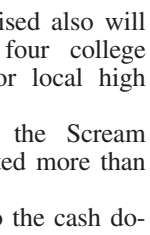
The adult winter reading program, "Stay Safe and Read," also runs Dec. 18 to Feb. 6.

Patrons can read five books (print or audio) from the library to claim a theater-sized box of candy. Their name also will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate from Full Circle Cafe.

For more information, call 465-3663.

Michael Palmer completes academy

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Palmer recently graduated the 26th Fall Corrections Academy session at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.



PALMER

The four-week academy offers a comprehensive, interactive instruction program in various disciplines for jail deputies. Training topics include custody and security, defensive tactics, first aid (including CPR and AED procedures), suicide awareness, fire safety and interpersonal communications.

The academy, certified by the Michigan Sheriffs' Coordinating and Training Council, is an important element of providing the necessary skills for maintaining a safe, secure environment for jail staff, inmates and area residents, the department said in a news release. "I want to congratulate Deputy Palmer for his effort in completing this vital training. The skills learned at this academy will help him safely and effectively manage our inmate population," Sheriff Paul Bailey said in the release. "The training helps our deputies develop and practice the tools necessary to be successful in this high-stress environment."

Have news for 'Our Town'?

Do you have some news about your hometown that you would like to see in the paper? Mail it to "Our Town" in care of Features Editor Andy Steinke at The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; put it in our drop box at 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph; or send an email to focus@TheHP.com. Timely news about upcoming events should be received two weeks prior to the events.

SCHOLARSHIPS

3 honored with United Way youth scholarships

ST. JOSEPH — United Way of Southwest Michigan recently announced this year's Volunteer United Youth Scholarship Award winners.

One winner each from Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties demonstrated commitment to volunteerism through innovation, dedication and advocacy for community improvement throughout their high school careers.

The annual scholarship was awarded to Anna Glomski of Paw Paw High School (now attending Concordia University Ann Arbor), Jonathan Leach of Ross Beatty High School in Cassopolis (Southwestern Michigan College) and Zoey Martin of Niles High School (Southwestern Michigan College).

Glomski volunteered with Young Explorers, Van Buren Youth Fair, Paw Paw Youth Soccer Camp, and Key Club Adopt A Family, and served as a chemistry tutor.

"Volunteering changes people's lives and leaves a positive impact on those volunteering. It grows more leaders of the community and improves the quality of life for all," Glomski said in the release.

She held positions in student government, ran cross country and track, and played soccer, serving as varsity captain. She plans to study nursing.

Leach has several years of volunteer experience with Backpack Ministry, Operation Christmas Child, Adopt-a-Highway, and Cass County Medical Facility. He has taken mission trips to Peru, Nashville, Charleston, Newark and Vienna to serve children, seniors, the disabled and the hungry.

"Investing in people is more important than gaining material things," he said. "I have been blessed and want to be a blessing to others."

He was a track medalist and honor student and has won academic and community service awards.

Since she was 14, Martin has been volunteering weekly with the disabled in assisted living.

"When I started volunteering, I thought I was making a difference in their lives, but really, they made me become a better person," Martin said. "They taught me about compassion and to simply love people for who they are and not to try to change them."

She ran cross country for three years and did four years of Science Olympiad. She plans to study civil engineering.

Each winner received a $1,500 scholarship, made out to their college on their behalf. Only current high-school seniors are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

"When a young person shows a commitment to helping others early in life, that's an indication of future success, and it benefits all of us in the community to support that person so they can continue to grow and contribute as they move into adulthood," said Debbie Ramirez, volunteer engagement director at United Way of Southwest Michigan. "We are pleased to give back to those youth leaders who give so much of themselves."

Virtual presentation

Mental Health "Pandemic"
The Crisis within the Crisis

DR. BERNICE PATTERSON
Founder and CEO of Infinity Consultation Group
TASHA TURNER, MA, LPC, CCTP

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 7 pm

Free with registration; pay-what-you-can option available to defray event costs

Register for your online pass at TheMendelCenter.com

COVID-19. The election. An uncertain economy. Unemployment. Inequalities in access to health care. There's no doubt that 2020 has presented the perfect storm of life changing events impacting all of us in one way or another. Beneath the headlines, though, is a lesser mentioned challenge affecting a growing number of individuals: mental health issues.

Two regional mental health professionals, Dr. Bernice Patterson and Tasha Turner, will examine and discuss how big of a problem our community is facing, what the latest research shows about isolation and our mental health, and early indicators that someone is moving from normal reactions to stress into a mental health concern. They will also discuss methods to reduce and handle stress as well as local resources available to preserve and improve mental health.

The Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan Speaker Series
Lake Michigan College — The Mendel Center

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